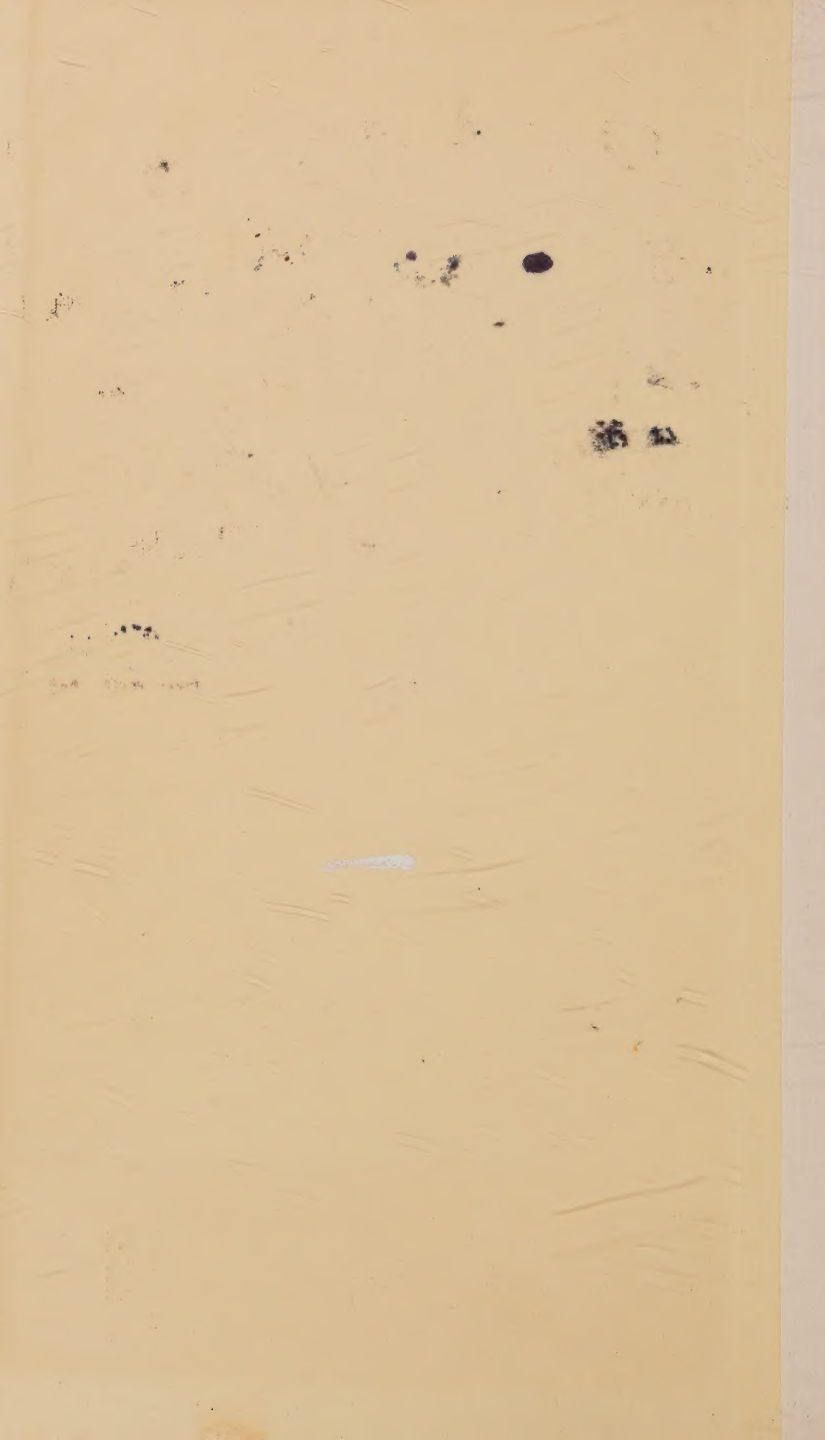






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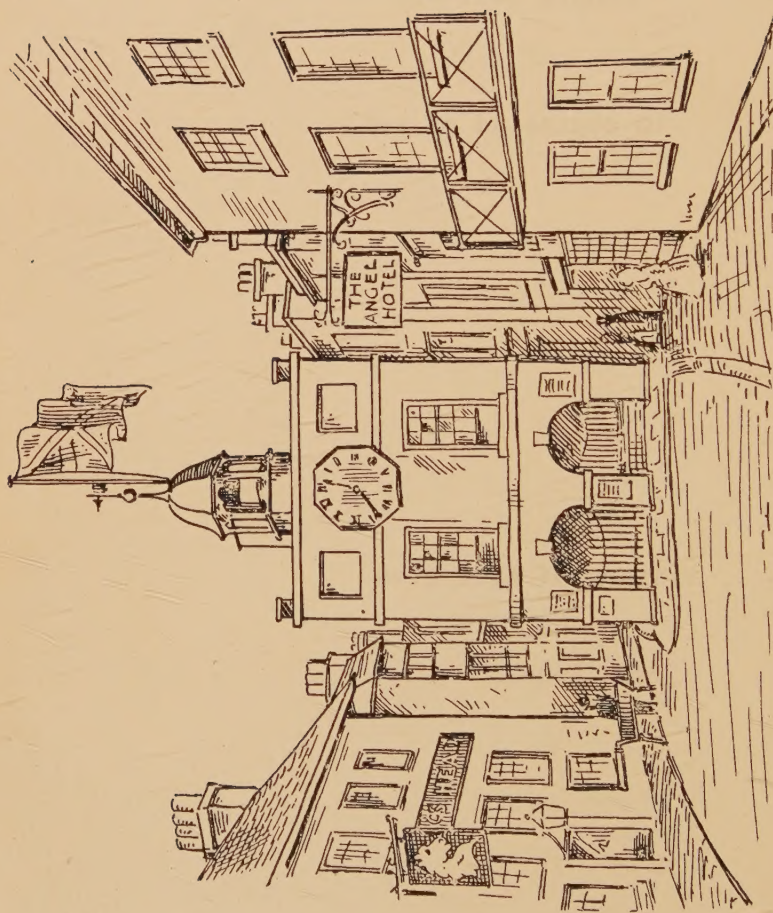


HISTORY
OF
LYMINGTON.



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THE THIRD TOWN HALL, pulled down in 1858.

From an Original Drawing by Edward King.

HISTORY
or
Lymington.

BY
CHARLES PERCY JONES.

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PREFACE.

THE facilities afforded me when preparing for the Town Council the Report on "Old Manuscripts" in the Town Chest were of invaluable assistance in compiling this History. Chance had also put in my way a good many old deeds which gave much information. I have to acknowledge the help of the Rev. B. L. Morris and the late Mr. H. Mangham in translating various Latin documents; also the assistance given me in lending books and documents, and for various communications made by Messrs. E. Hapgood, E. King, F. Collins, Lord Halifax, Sir Sidney Burrard, K. Pulteney, Esq., the late Town Clerk and others, and help from Brig.-General H. E. B. Newenham, C.B., and to Mr. E. Hapgood, Mr. E. King and Miss Badcock for the loan of pictures, some of which are reproduced in this book. I am also indebted for various communications made to me by Miss Inman, the late Mr. G. Courtney, the late Alderman Dyer, the late Mr. T. J. D. Rawlins, Messrs. O. Inman, Hayward, Harper and many others. I also acknowledge the help rendered by those gentlemen who read and revised chapters containing matter as to which they had special knowledge. The history has, in fact, been revised and checked many times so that everything possible to be done to avoid errors has been done. The first chapter, although the shortest, has been the most difficult, as there was no certain material to go upon, and the facts related or conjectured are of course open to the future discoveries of antiquaries. I believe, in all other respects, the history is quite reliable, and I may perhaps be pardoned for pointing out that, as regards most of the history, even such works as the "Victoria History" have had to depend largely on books written locally, whereas I have gone beyond them, and read the original documents, or acquired information at first hand.

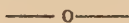
C. P. JONES.

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HISTORY OF LYMINGTON.



CHAPTER I.

"ANCIENT AND PREHISTORIC LYMINGTON."

Whether the first inhabitants of Britain were natives of the island or adventitious settlers is a question lost in the mists of antiquity." (Tacitus. Vit. Agric.)

IT has ever been the cherished belief of its inhabitants that Lymington is a place of great antiquity, and this belief is borne out by many and various facts. There can be no possible doubt that it is an ancient British town. The name itself, apart from its Saxon endings of *ing* ' and *ton*," testifies to this, *Lym* being the Celtic name for water. Its river *Boldre* ("full river"); the street called Gosport Street (*Gos* "running water"); the ancient barrows discovered near the old tithe barn (now unfortunately destroyed); the finding of British pottery in Gosport Street and South Street; the British earthworks now called "Buckland Rings;" and the earthwork at Walhampton, are facts which cannot be gainsaid. Besides this, all writers on the subject of Lymington have been in agreement as to its British origin.

At a period so remote as only to be guessed at by a geologist or archæologist, when Hampshire and adjacent counties were still partially covered by the sandstone from which the "sarsen" stones of Stonehenge were derived (a); when the Isle of Wight was part of the Mainland, and the Solent a river (b); when the first rude tribes of Britain

(a) Official Guide to Stonehenge.

(b) Lecture by Mr. Sumner at Buckland Rings, 18th May, 1928.

inhabited only the sea-coasts, and the high lands leading therefrom; when the only means of communication were green tracks over ridgeways; when men were dominated by their sheep and oxen, fearful of venturing into the wilderness of trees below them (*a*); the camp of Buckland Rings (then less developed than it afterwards became) was situated, then, as now, at the seaward end of a ridge of high land, which, it is supposed, was, in those times, a highway inland of the Britons. It is thought that the people who first used this camp as a place of safety for their cattle, had their cattle feeding grounds near the Solent, and that the inhabitants lived where their cattle grazed.

This, it is said, is the only way in which can be explained the enormous number (54) of Chieftains' barrows in the locality. It is also believed that at that time the people in the locality chiefly lived by fishing.

As Buckland Rings is but a mile and a half from the Lymington river, and that river could only have been approachable from the foot of the hill of solid ground on which Lymington now stands, it is reasonable to conjecture that those people lived on that particular site, and that the rude habitations they erected was the primitive Lymington.

In further support of this theory it should be noted that the Lymington river, then a tributary to the Solent, was then (as can easily now be realised by a visit to the river) edged with mud banks backed by reed covered marshes, and behind these was the interminable Forest, so that the only place whence boats might be launched was at the above site.

The primitive civilisation of the ancient Britons in Lymington and district must have existed for many centuries before the period when the Phoenicians first ascertained the value of Britain as a tin, lead, pearl, and deep purple dye

(*a*) Pre-Roman Britain (Massingham).

producing country. We are told that after that time "the situation of the town and its natural conveniences as a passage to the Isle of Wight caused it to be selected as a *depôt* for the goods brought from the inland parts of the country to be exchanged for articles imported from the more refined nations of the Continent through the early Phœnician traders long antecedent to the Christian era" (a), a period which might be anything up to 1500 B.C.

In this connection the following passage from Deodorus Seculus is worth quoting. "They prepare the tin carefully... having cast it into rough blocks, they carry it into a certain island which lies off the coast of Britain and is called Ictis. At the ebb tide the intervening space is dry, and tin in large quantities is brought over in carts. Here the merchants purchase it from the natives and carry it into Gaul".

From the nature of the physiography of the locality it is evident that the dry "intervening space" must have been at the west end of the island where the Solent is only about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles across and likely to have been shallowest, and this is nearly opposite Lymington.

In his "Pre-Historic Lymington," Mr. H. G. Barrey, (who puts the antiquity of Lymington at an even remoter period than the writer has dared to do) is of opinion that, although there might have been a hamlet at Lymington for an indefinite period in the past, the first tangible landmark in its history arose some 200 or 300 years B.C. At that time many Belgæ, or war-like Celts, came as refugees to the Isle of Wight, and settled there at the invitation of the native chief. They were an agricultural as well as a war-like people, and, as they increased in numbers, invaded or settled round Lymington and had their town or port at *Caer Dwr* or *Caer Lym* (both names signifying "water-city") and presumably on the site of the

(a) "Hand book of Lymington".

Phœnician trading station, and this he thinks must have been a little nearer to the present gas works, than Quay Hill is.

They protected their town and territory by a rampart on the western side running from the fort down by way of, or near, where Highfield and Belmore Lane now are, the complete fortification, with its dams and waterways, and the river, enclosing the site of the whole of Lymington, Waterford and part of Buckland (a). The rampart and its adjuncts connected up Buckland Rings, the site of Ampress camp (b), and the artificial hill of mould on which the Burrard Memorial now stands, and which was afterwards used by the Romans, and perhaps then, as a watch tower.

It is difficult to follow Mr. Barrey's description of the ramparts as traced by him ; but he says portions can still be recognised. He points, in particular, to the sudden drop of the high road in Belmore Lane opposite the Vicarage as being a rampart end, and speculates on the possibility of the word "Belmore" being derived from the Celtic *Bur-ore*, which, he says, has that meaning. This, however, seems somewhat fanciful.

Having established the existence of these formidable and extensive works around Lymington, he argues that they would not have been built if the place had not been of the greatest importance, and believes it was used as a base for their further advances to the Forest, and to their large establishment at Devizes and Old Sarum, and that the town was, in their time, a considerable port and city. This, indeed, seems highly probable, as we know that the Belgæ colonised and dominated most of South Britain, that the whole of that country was thickly populated, and that the celebrated Druidical school and city of *Caer Gwent* (Winchester) and the Temple of Stonehenge were within a day's march from Lymington.

(a) Barrey.

(b) See Appendix.

The next landmark is the period of the Roman invasion ; not that of Julius Cæsar, as he does not appear to have approached that part of the country ; but in the time of Claudius in 43 A.D.

As to the events of that period, the late Mr. Edward King (who appears to have been accepted as a reliable authority by the compilers of the " Victoria " history, in his " Old Times Revisited ") makes the following statement, viz : that when Aulus Plautius, with Vespasian in his train, invaded Britain, he first conquered the Isle of Wight, from whence, near Yarmouth, the natural disembarking place, he would have had a clear view of the Forest opposite (which in his time appears to have dwindled into a wood) and of the Lymington estuary. Also, that after leaving the Isle of Wight he sailed up the river, to this wood (Woodside ?), which the Domesday Book tells us was adjacent to Lymington, and landed there, i.e., presumably at the foot of the hill, for he could not have landed in the wood itself. He called the wood the Alaunian Wood and the river he named the River Alainus. He proceeds to tell us that the Romans then marched from Lymington westward by Sway and Downton Common, thence across the Avon, *via* Ringwood, probably attacking the fortress known as Buckland Rings on their way ; and there is a tradition that a battle was fought at Latchmore (a) near there.

Mr. Barrey tells us that a Roman summer camp can be traced on the top of the hill, the route of the ramparts being down New Street to Cannon Lane, Workhouse Hill, and into a street beyond ; then turning to the left to Buckland Road, and from thence up the hill to the church ; then crossing the High Street to the back of the gardens beyond ; and then back to Victoria Court. This, he says, formed the circuit of the camp, which would be close up to the ancient town. It would, in fact, be in the centre of the present town at the top of the

(a) Meaning " the place of carcases "

hill. During their occupation of the town the Romans used the fort at Buckland Rings as a camp, and the British hill at Walhampton as a watch tower. Many relics of the Roman occupation have been found from time to time. Lymington was too small a place to attract the notice of Roman writers, and it is not surprising that there are not written records of it during the Roman occupation. Doubtless this period was a happy one for the British people, and Lymington must have been at this time a useful port for the Isle of Wight traffic.

The *pax Romana*, we know, was rudely disturbed after the legions were withdrawn, and Britain was invaded by the so-called Saxons.

There was a century or more of warfare, and it took the invaders some thirty years to conquer Hampshire alone. A series of battles was fought (*circa* 519 A.D.) between Cerdic the Saxon, and Ambrosius the patriotic British leader. It is not improbable that the forts at Lymington were utilised in defence of the town by the latter, and some writers attribute the name "Ampress" to a tradition that Ambrosius held this camp or earthwork against the invaders. This must have been a dark and perilous time for Romanised Britons in Lymington, and, though no doubt the Port remained in the hands of the invaders, the inhabitants, doubtless, joined their fellows in the flight to the mountains of Wales or to Brittany; or, as has been more recently surmised, retreated inland to help carry on the protracted warfare. There was much for the Saxons to wonder at in the high ramparts and earthworks at Lymington, which then stood out stark and grim and were not concealed or destroyed, as they are now, by the operations of time and the growth of trees and vegetation; and the Saxons (or perhaps the Danes) gave the name of "Boc-land," or "Devil's Land," to that part of Lymington where they were most prominent, and this name, now "Buckland," remains to the present day to designate that district.

It was then that the terminations "ing " and "ton " were given to the hamlet or village, as it then became, of Lymington. It consisted, after the Saxons had probably burnt the town and then rebuilt it (when they found what a useful port it was), of a small number of houses by the Quayside and in Gosport Street and South Street.

It has been recorded by Mr. Barrey that the camp at Ampress was part of the British fortifications ; but later investigators have held it to be Saxon, although there might previously have been an earthwork there. A visit to this place and Buckland Rings, under proper guidance, would go far to dispel any doubt about the antiquity of Lymington. There are traces of an ancient dock at Ampress, showing that the river was at one time navigable to a much higher point than now. The antiquary may be interested in the fact that under the silt from the high banks of Ampress Camp have been found large quantities of oyster shells distributed on the banks. Obviously, the people (probably Saxon) sat on the banks and ate them there, and probably obtained the oysters from an oyster bed in the river in front of the camp. Lymington, up to a century or so ago, had many oyster beds in the river, and this would confirm the antiquity of the industry.

The period of the Saxon occupation, in Lymington, as elsewhere, is dark and obscure, and although the town was a Saxon village for 500 or 600 years there is nothing which throws light upon it until the arrival of the Normans and the compilation of Domesday Book. From that work we learn that at the Conquest Lymington was still an insignificant hamlet with a farm of some 120 acres close by at Woodside, at which some of the villagers were occasionally employed. The Saxons had a feudal system of their own, and Manors were created by them, but Lymington remained a liberty or free village, independent of the two adjacent Manors of Boldre. When the Saxons had become christianised the spiritual needs

of the inhabitants of Lymington were looked after by the Canons of Christchurch, a body who were established long before the Conquest, and Lymington became a part of the ecclesiastical hundred and parish of Christchurch, as has been fully recorded in the cartulary there.

At the Conquest Lymington and the district around it, co-extensive with the present parish and borough, was created a Manor and given to a Norman lord, and afterwards became the property of the great family of de Redvers and their descendants, the Courtenays of the English branch, who were over-lords of Lymington for nearly 500 years, and whose interesting and remarkable history is related in the next chapter.

Genealogical Chart of the Brioniis--Redvers--Courtenay Family, explanatory of Chapter II.

Richard de Redvers (1st Earl of Devon).

Baldwin, 2nd Earl

Richard, 3rd Earl, *d.* 1162

Baldwin, 4th Earl Richard, 5th Earl

William, 6th Earl

Baldwin, 7th Earl, *suc.* 1216.

Baldwin, 8th Earl,
d. 1262.

Isabel of the Isle
9th successor.

(End of the de Redvers line).

Baldwin de Brioniis (Viscount of Devonshire *m.* Albreda, niece of William the Conqueror).

Adelicia

Alicia

Alicia

Matilda *m.* Robert de Abrencis

Hawise *m.* Reginald de Courtenay

Mary, *m.* Robert de Courtenay

Hugh de Courtenay, 10th de Redvers Earl and 1st Courtenay Earl
(heir to all three families).

Hugh, 2nd Courtenay Earl *d.* 1406 (progenitor of the Powderham branch).

Edward (grandson) 3rd Earl ("the blind")

Hugh, 4th Earl *d.* 1440

Thomas, 5th Earl, *d.* 1458.

Thomas, 6th Earl, beheaded 1462.

(Sir Humphrey Stafford created 8th Earl but beheaded shortly afterwards.)

John, 7th Earl,

killed at Tewkesbury 1471.

(End of the first Courtenay line).

Chart of the 2nd Courtenay Line.

Sir Edward Courtenay (a cousin and heir at Law) created by Henry VI. 9th Earl. *d.* 1509.

William, 10th Earl, *m.* Catherine d. of Edward IV. and *d.* 1527.

Henry, 11th Earl (created Marquis of Exeter), beheaded 1538.

Edward, *d.* at Padua 1566 (temp. Mary). Created Earl by Queen Mary in 1553 (fresh creation).

(End of the 2nd Courtenay line and end of the connection of the family with Lymington Manor which was forfeited to the Crown after being held by them since 1102.)

Chart of the 3rd Courtenay Line.

Hugh (2nd Courtenay Earl)

Sir Philip Courtenay of Powderham Castle, 6th son of the above.

Richard

Philip

William

William

William ("Sir William the Great")

William

William (*d.* 1567, *m.* Elizabeth, daughter of John Powlett, Marquess of Winchester).

William (Edward Courtenay, 12th Courtenay Earl and first of Mary's creation died in his time).

Francis, *d.* 1638.

William, *d.* 1702.

William, (grandson), *d.* 1736.

William (created Viscount Courtenay of Powderham Castle in 1762. Died same year).

William, 2nd Viscount (era of Gibbon's panegyric).

William, 3rd Viscount, *d.* 1835, when this line became extinct.

Chart of the 4th Courtenay Line.

(NOTE. —Edward 12th Courtenay Earl and 1st Earl of Mary's creation in 1553, died 1566. The Earldom of Mary was revived in 1835 in the person of William Courtenay, son of Henry Reginald Courtenay, Bishop of Exeter, and cousin of the 3rd Viscount).

William Courtenay (1st Earl of the revived Earldom, 10th by natural descent from time of Mary.)

William Reginald (11th Earl) *d.* 1888.

Edward Baldwin (12th Earl) *d.* 1891.

Henry Hugh Courtenay (13th Earl) *d.* 1904.

Henry Reginald (Lord Courtenay)

Charles Pepys Courtenay (14th Earl)
(*d.* unmarried)

Henry Hugh Courtenay
(15th, present, Earl).

CHAPTER II.

THE REDVERS-COURTENAY FAMILY.

“What we gave we have,
What we spent we had,
What we left we lost.”

(Epitaph on tomb of Edward Courtenay, the “Blind Earl.”)

The family of Courtenay derived much of its wealth, and many of its honours, from two families, of whom the outstanding representatives in early Norman times were Baldwin de Brioniis, and Baldwin, son of Richard de Redvers, who have in some measure, been confused by Dugdale, Tanner, and their copyists, including Gibbon.

Baldwin de Brioniis was cousin of William the Conqueror, and he married Albreda, the niece of the Conqueror. Because he was so near of kin, and because he greatly assisted him in his conquests, the King conferred on him the rich barony of Okehampton in Devon, on account of which he was called Viscount or Sheriff of Devonshire, and is so styled in Domesday Book. There were no less than ninety-two Knight's fees (a) belonging to this barony, and numerous manors. His son Richard, and his descendants, founded the Abbey of Ford in Devonshire. Richard left his whole estate and honours to his sister, Adelia, who was his heir, and after him called Viscountess of Devonshire. The Lady Adelia left a daughter Alicia who also married, and had a daughter Alicia, who succeeded to the family estates and honours. She, in her turn, married, and had a daughter Matilda, who was twice married, first to Robert de Abrencis, by whom she had a daughter named Hawise; and afterwards to Robert, natural son of Henry I., by whom she had a daughter, named after her own name, Matilda. In 1173 (Henry II.) both these daughters, rich heiresses, came into

(a) A Knight's fee was 640 acres, or four hides.

the King's hands as wards, and in order to reward Reginald de Courtenay, who will hereafter be mentioned, the King bestowed the hand of Hawise on this Reginald, and also married her sister to Reginald's brother William. Thus the family of Brioniis became merged in that of Courtenay, and the barony and honour of Okehampton and all the other lands belonging to the Brioniis family (Matilda having no issue) descended to Robert de Courtenay, son of Hawise. This Robert de Courtenay married Mary, daughter of William de Redvers, Earl of Devon, and thus also laid a root of title, which subsequently materialised into possession, to the de Redvers estates and honours. It will thus be seen how the connection between the families arose.

It now becomes necessary to treat of the de Redvers family, and, for the purposes of this history, it will be better to commence with the first Norman disposal of the new Manor of Lymington. (a).

The hide of land at Lymington mentioned in Domesday Book as held by one Lening or Leving, was granted to Earl Roger, of Shrewsbury (b), who held it in 1088 when Fulcuin was his tenant there. The Manor of Lymington was then created. From Earl Roger, Lymington, descended with his other lands, to his son Hugh, Earl of Shrewsbury (b), who died in 1098. and was succeeded by his brother Robert (c). On the accession of Henry I., Robert took up the cause of Robert of Normandy and, in 1102, suffered forfeiture (d). Lymington was then granted, with the Manor of Christchurch Twynham, (e) the Manor of Bræmore in Hampshire, all the land

(a) Up to this point and generally up to 1735, most of the facts related have been taken from "The Genealogical History of the Noble Family of Courtenay" by the Rev. Ezra Cleaveland, Tutor to Sir William de Courtenay, and who published his very voluminous (but not too voluminous in view of the intricate and wonderful history of that family) book in that year.

(b) *Victoria History* ex Stuart papers (Hist : MSS. Com : 1. 75).

(c) Vic : His : ex G. E. C. complete Peerage VII, 135.

(d) Vic : His : ex Dugdale.

(e) Forfeited by Ralph Flambard who rebuilt the Church there in 1095.

from Christchurch to Beaulieu, and the Isle of Wight, to Richard de Redvers, who is recorded as "the faithful and beloved counsellor" of Henry I., who also gave him many lands in Devonshire and created him Earl of Devon (afterwards styled of Devonshire). To him succeeded Baldwin, his son, who was reckoned amongst the valiant men of his time, and took part with Maud against King Stephen, against whom he fortified the Castle of Exeter and the Isle of Wight. This Baldwin had no less than 159 lordships or Manors in Devonshire, besides other lands. He and his father founded the Austin Priory of Bræmore in Hants (1132 A.D.) together with a monastery near Exeter, and he likewise built and founded (1131 A.D.) the Abbey of Quarr in the Isle of Wight, which Abbey, and the Priory of Christchurch, he afterwards also partly endowed (as is related elsewhere) with a tithe of the salt from Lymington. It was this Earl who introduced regular canons at Christchurch in place of the 24 secular canons who previously, and in Saxon times, formed the College there, and placed them under a Prior. He also erected the castle at Christchurch the ruins of which (with walls ten feet thick) may still be seen. He it also was who gave Lymington its first charter. His son Richard succeeded him, and in 7th H. II. confirmed the foundation and endowment of the Priory of Twynham (*a*). He died in France, 1162 (8th H. II) and was buried at Tywnham (Christchurch) leaving issue by his wife Dionysia (a grand-daughter of Henry I) two sons Baldwin and Richard, both successively Earls of Devon, and who died without issue. Both fought constantly for the King in his French wars. Their uncle, William (surnamed de Vernon), succeeded them. It was this Earl who gave Lymington its second Charter. He was one of the four Earls who attended King Richard I. on his release from imprisonment on the continent, and is conspicuous,

(*a*) Prior to this foundation it was a College for secular canons in existence long before the conquest.

amongst the rebellious barons in King John's time. Baldwin, his son succeeded him as seventh Earl in 1216, though for a long time under the tutelage of his step-father, Fulk de Breant, "a very wicked and mischievous person," but a stout soldier and of great assistance to the King against the Barons, until he finally turned traitor, and was poisoned on a journey to Rome. This Baldwin died in early manhood, and was buried at Bræmore, leaving a son Baldwin who, in 1262 died of poison, together with Richard, Earl of Gloucester and others at the table of Peter de Savoy, uncle to Queen Eleanor. He it was who gave Barfields to Lymington (see later). His only child having predeceased him, he was succeeded by his sister the celebrated Isabel, wife of William de Fortibus, Earl of Albemarle who thereupon became also Lady of the Isle and Countess of Devon, (as well as Countess Albemarle.)

At the beginning of her dominion, during the Barons' war, this lady had a troubled, not to say tempestuous, career. Her late brother Baldwin had granted the Manor of Lymington to the Prior of Bræmore, but the Prior had no seisin at the time of the Earl's death, and the subsequent Royal confirmation was, consequently, of no avail. Then ensued the war of the Barons, in the course of which the Prior took the side of Simon de Montford, the Barons' leader, and pressed his claim. Isabella was forced to confirm the Charter, but afterwards protested that the confirmation was wrung from her. After the battle of Lewes, (while "robbers and disturbers of the peace of the Kingdom rode ravaging, with horses and arms, throughout England"), she sought shelter at Bræmore Priory only to find in the Prior a friend of de Montford. She was detained a prisoner there, and was only suffered to depart upon offering her Charter upon the altar of the Priory Church of St. Michael of Bræmore. She was then pursued from place to place by Simon de Montford, with a view of abducting her, until she found refuge in Wales. The

issue between her and the Prior was afterwards tried at the Court of the King at Westminster before the King, Robert Waler, Robert Aguyton, and John de la Lynde, Stewards of the King (Edward I) and Robert de Brywys Justice, and others, at an *Assize de Mort*, when a final agreement was made and sanctioned, whereby her right to the Manor of Lymington was acknowledged, and the previous Charters, or deeds of gift, restored to her, the Prior receiving, as compensation, certain lands in Devon (a). Peace was then restored, and thenceforward, by the aid of the signatures of the witnesses to her Charters, and the fact of her immense possessions and numerous titles, we can discern this lady seated in her island domain (itself but a fragment of her possessions) in almost royal state, (b) surrounded by her provincial Court of Lords, Knights, Priests, and Attendants, bestowing favours upon her dependents, and, no doubt, in after years, exciting the jealousy of Edward I. whose (perhaps natural) policy was to restrain the power of the nobles. In 1271 she gave her celebrated Charter to the Borough of Lymington (which will be referred to later), after she had married William de Fortibus. In the latter part of her life she married again, and gave a great part of her estate to her second husband. In 1299 she sold (no doubt it was a forced sale) the reversion of the Isle of Wight, with Christchurch and other Manors, to the King, who had long had his eye upon the island as too great an estate for a subject. According to Sir William Pole, as cited in Cleaveland, the reversion was sold for 6,000 marks (c); but according to the Monks of Ford and Dugdale, similarly cited, the deed of grant to the King was forged by one Stratton, her clerk or secretary, who had possession of the Countess's seal and fraudulently used it.

- (a) Fine for the sale of the Manor of Lymington, No. 232 in volume 18 of Miscellaneous Charters at the Record Office.
- (b) She and her predecessors exercised all the rights of sovereignty on the island which previous to the Norman conquest, was a separate Jutish Kingdom. Hence her sobriquet "Lady of the Isle."
- (c) £60,000 of our money. Query if this money was received.

However this may be, the King seized the island at her death, (a) and her successor, Hugh, who sought to set the deed aside, although a writ was granted to "search the writings", and "what you find relative to the estates that you deliver to him," could never again recover the Isle of Wight.

The Lady Isabel had several children, some of whom married, but they all died in her lifetime without issue, so that on her death, in 1299, the family of de Redvers became extinct, and the succession to her estates and titles reverted to the above-mentioned Hugh de Courtenay, Baron of Okhampton, direct male heir of the Robert de Courtenay before mentioned, and of his wife, Mary, daughter of William de Redvers. We now, therefore, have to trace the history and follow the fortunes of the de Courtenays, the natural successors and inheritors of the two families of Brioniis and de Redvers.

This celebrated family of de Courtenay, according to Collin's Peerage, might claim a doubtful descent from Pharamond, a chief of the Franks, and the legendary founder of the French monarchy. They were of the same lineage as the Dukes of Boulogne, of whose family was the celebrated Godfrey and Baldwin I., Kings of Jerusalem. They were conspicuous among the immediate vassals of the Crown; were allied by marriage to the French royal house, and with three Emperors of Constantinople; fought in the Crusades; and were regarded more as princes than barons. The family, however, regard Athon or Atho as being its direct founder. Gibbon says: "With the first rays of light we discern the nobility and opulence of Atho, a French Knight; his nobility in the rank and title of a nameless father; his opulence in the foundation of the Castle of Courtenay in

(a) She died at Stockwell on the day the bargain was concluded. Being so near death at the time there would be the more opportunity for foul play, if there were such.

the district of Gatinois, about 56 miles to the south of Paris." This "nameless father" (i.e., whose name has been lost) was Governor of Chateau Reynard. Athon is said to have been so powerful that he "swayed the French sceptre." He fortified Courtenay, from which place, about 1000 A.D., he assumed his surname. From him descended three celebrated branches (1) The Edessa Branch, who became Counts of Edessa, Princes of Tiberias, and Kings of Jerusalem. (2) The French Branch who married into the French royal family and supplied three Emperors to Constantinople. (3) The English Branch whose founder was Reginald de Courtenay, son of Milo, son of Joscelyn, the son of Athon. This Reginald, who was a powerful chief with many possessions, and a following so large that he seems to have defied, and made war upon, the King of France, after marrying one of his daughters to Lewis the Gross, came to England with King Henry II. in the year 1151, and was instrumental in effecting the match between that Monarch and Eleanor, the divorced Queen of France. By virtue of his feudal rights, King Henry, had as already stated, the wardships of Hawise, daughter and sole heiress to Robert de Abrencis, Baron of Okehampton, and Viscount or Sheriff of Devonshire; and as a reward he bestowed the hand of this rich heiress upon his friend Reginald, who then abandoned his French possessions (as no doubt he was obliged to do, having offended the King of France,) and became anglicised. Robert, his son, succeeded him as Baron of Okehampton, and married Mary, youngest daughter of William, 6th Earl of Devon as before related. His son John succeeded him, and in his turn was succeeded by his son Hugh. This Hugh had a son of the same name, who on the death of Isabella de Fortibus, when the family of de Redvers had become extinct, succeeded to the Earldom of Devonshire (a) as 10th Earl, (reckoning the Countess as

(a) It was probably then that the title was insensibly changed from 'Devon' to 'Devonshire'; but this is conjectural.

the 9th,) by right of his great-grandmother the above-named Mary, to whose descendants the right of succession had been traced. Although really the 10th Earl, the peerages usually call him (as the first Courtenay Earl) the 1st Earl, and this numbering will henceforth be adopted. Although the de Redvers estates were diminished, he still held a vast territory, retaining some 160 lordships in the County of Devon alone. He died in 1340, at a great age, and was succeeded by Hugh his eldest son, as 2nd Earl (*ob.* 1409). Edward his grandson, commonly called the "blind" or "good" Earl, succeeded him as third Earl. He confirmed the Charter of Isabella and gave additional privileges to the Burgesses, so that at this time, except for a few reservations, the Borough became quite self-contained. Hugh succeeded as fourth Earl (*ob.* 1440). Thomas became 5th Earl (*ob.* 1458). This Earl had a dispute with the Earl of Arundel about precedence, and, although the former was of older creation, it was adjudged that the latter should have first place.

During the long period of their prosperity the English Courtenays rivalled the French family in importance; marrying Bohuns, Talbots, St. Johns, Despensers, de Veres, and even Plantagenets; obtaining princely power, becoming Archbishops, Ambassadors, Ministers of State, great Commanders, and fighters, so that a detailed account of their deeds would fill volumes, and has actually filled, in a very compressed style, the thick volume written by Cleaveland. At the height of their power, however, they had a great fall in consequence of the Wars of the Roses, during which so many of our old nobility were destroyed. Thomas the 6th Earl was taken prisoner at the battle of Tewton, and by command of Edward IV. was beheaded and attainted in 1466. Upon his death Sir Humphrey Stafford was created Earl of Devonshire, but he also was soon afterwards beheaded. John, brother of the

two previous Earls, succeeded to the pretensions of the family, which soon, however, became realities, as Edward IV. was in 1470 forced to fly on the restoration of Henry VI., and then the Earls of Devonshire, as they were then styled, were restored to their titles and estates. Edward IV. then returned and defeated the other side in the battle of Barnet. John, who we may call the 7th Earl, joined the forces of Queen Margaret, who had taken refuge in Beaulieu Abbey, and was slain at Tewkesbury in 1471, and in him ended the first Branch of the family of Courtenay in England.

When Henry VI. came to London he created Sir Edward Courtenay, a Knight of Devonshire, 9th Earl, and most of the family estates, including Lymington, fell to him as the rightful heir. He was in all the Parliaments of Henry VII. and defended Exeter against Perkin Warbeck. He died in 1509 and was succeeded by his son William as 10th Earl. This Earl married Catherine, the seventh daughter of Edward IV.; an unfortunate marriage for him, as it was the cause of his being imprisoned for several years by Henry VII.; his son being beheaded by Henry VIII., and his grandson being a prisoner nearly all his life. He died in 1527. Edward's son Henry succeeded him as 11th Earl, after having been created Marquis of Exeter in 1525. (a). When Henry VIII. went to France in 1532 he nominated this Earl, as a descendant of the Plantagenets, (of which fact he afterwards became jealous), his heir apparent. In 1538, however, on an accusation of high treason brought by Sir Geoffrey Poole, brother to Lord Montacute, the tyrant King beheaded and attainted him, together with Lord Montacute and Sir Edward Nevil.

It was after this that the family adopted as their motto "Ubi lapsus! Quid fecit?" (b) in assertion of their innocence,

(a) From which date he, "despising that mark of cadency, erroneously removed the label" from his arms denoting a junior Branch.

(b) What a loss! What had he done?

and this was added to the family arms which were: *or, 3 torteaux gules*, to which, up to this period, had been added the label with three points. It will be noted that these family arms are part of the arms of the Borough of Lymington, and they have always been the arms of the Courtenay family from the most remote period.

This Henry, Marquis of Exeter had been the boon companion of the King, and had assisted his designs in many ways; from time to time jousting with him, leading armies for him, moving the Pope to grant him a divorce, and without doubt being far too faithful and compliant a subject, so that his execution arose from pure thirst of blood. All the indictment alleged against him was that he had said "I trust once to have a fair day upon those knaves which rule about the King," and a few more words to that effect. That his attainder was unjust and cruel was apparent to all men; but few dared say so. Sir Nicholas Carew, who did, was immediately himself executed for so doing.

Edward Courtenay (12th Earl) son of the beheaded Marquis, and described by Gibbon as a beautiful youth, was only twelve years old at the death of his father, notwithstanding which he was imprisoned continuously in the Tower during the reigns of Henry VIII. and Edward VI. He was the secret lover of Princess Mary (afterwards Queen) and Princess Elizabeth her sister, who, when they resided in the Tower, (which was a palace as well as a prison) had frequent opportunities of seeing him. On the accession of Queen Mary he was released and restored to his Earldom (not the Marquisate) and such remnants of the family estates as it was possible to restore. At this period his marriage to Mary seemed imminent, and such an alliance was greatly favoured by the English people. The Emperor, Charles V. was so afraid of this taking place, and thus spoiling the prospects of his son Philip, that he

detained Cardinal Pole (a kinsman of Courtenay), who was then re-visiting England after his exile, in Germany, lest he should, by his influence with the Queen, promote the marriage. The dalliance of Courtenay with the Princess Elizabeth, however, aroused the anger and jealousy of the Queen, and he was again imprisoned in the Tower, but after remaining there a year was, on the intercession of Philip of Spain (who wished to do a popular act), finally released. His love passages with the two princesses, and his imprisonment, etc., have been finely dramatised by Ainsworth in his "Tower of London." He, then, fearing again to be imprisoned, obtained the Queen's leave to go abroad, and two years afterwards died at Padua, not without suspicion of poison, unmarried, in 1566. His estates, as restored by Queen Mary, were divided amongst his four aunts, and his titles were afterwards, by James I., conferred on other families. Thus the title became extinct, and the connection of the family with Lymington ceased entirely, for the reasons given below.

On the death and attainder of Henry, 11th Courtenay Earl and Marquis of Exeter, the Manor of Lymington passed to the Crown, and the King gave "the parcel of lands of the Manor of Lymington late belonging to Earl Courtenay" to his Queen, Catherine Parr, as part of her jointure. On the death of King Henry, Catherine married Sir Henry Seymour who was granted a free lease for life of the Manor (*a*). Queen Mary, in the first year of her accession, had re-granted the Manor to Edward Courtenay; but, of course, she could only grant the reversion on the death of the leaseholder, and Edward, dying soon afterwards, the grant never took effect; so that Seymour continued to enjoy the Manor. What became of the Manor afterwards is related in a subsequent chapter; but it passed away from the Courtenays,

(*a*) It is to be observed that the "Victoria History" gives a different version, asserting that the Manor formed a portion of the jointure of Catherine Howard, on whose execution it was once more forfeited, and granted by Edward VIth to his uncle Sir Henry Seymour. Both versions may be correct, as the changes of ownership in that period were rapid.

and thenceforward the connection of that family with Lymington ceased as stated. This chapter, however, would hardly be complete without relating the subsequent history of the Courtenay family, which is naturally interesting to dwellers in Lymington.

On the death of Edward there yet remained a younger branch, the descendants of Sir Philip Courtenay, of Powderham Castle, 6th son of Hugh, the second Courtenay Earl. Sir Philip was succeeded by his son Richard, and afterwards by his nephew Philip. Philip's son Sir William succeeded him, and he was succeeded by another Sir William who, in his turn, was succeeded by a William, commonly called Sir William Courtenay the Great. Two more Sir Williams then succeeded, the last one serving Queen Mary in the French wars, and dying in 1557. This Sir William married Elizabeth, daughter of John Powlett, Marquis of Winchester, and this fact may have led the Powletts in after years to seek to represent Lymington in Parliament. (a). Another Sir William then succeeded, and it was during his time that Edward Courtenay died at Padua. Sir William was succeeded by Sir Francis who died in 1638. His son, Sir William, married so young that he and his wife could not make thirty between them at the birth of the eldest of their numerous family. He died in 1702 and was succeeded by his grandson Sir William (*ob.* 1736).

The succession then fell to the latter's eldest son Sir William, who was raised to the peerage in 1762 with the title of Viscount Courtenay of Powderham Castle, and died ten days afterwards. William, only son of the above, became second Viscount Courtenay, keeping the same arms with the following additions:—supporters, two boars *argent*, arms quartered with two lions *rampant*, (the

(a) For an account of the rise of this family of Powlett, see the Chapter "The Burrards and the Powletts."

Plantagenet arms, which this family is allowed to assume) crest, on a wreath a dolphin *naint*, resting on a Viscount's coronet. It is of this period of their family history that Gibbon writes, "While they sigh for past greatness, they are doubtless sensible of present blessings: in the long series of the Courtenay annals the most splendid era is likewise the most unfortunate; nor can an opulent peer of Britain be inclined to envy (even) the Emperors of Constantinople."

Since Gibbon wrote the above in 1788, the family seems to have declined, and the Viscounty became extinct. There was then, and for some years prior to this, a Courtenay, cousin to the Viscount, who was Clerk Assistant of the Parliaments, and this Courtenay moved Lord Brougham to get the House of Lords to revive the Earldom. This was done, and, by a decision of the Committee of Privileges and that House in 1831, the third Viscount (*ob.* 1835) was held to be the rightful Earl of Devon (*a*). "There being at that time (1831) an Earl of Devonshire in the family of Cavendish, the Courtenay title had to revert to the original of 'Devon' instead of 'Devonshire'; but the proof was of the Courtenay descent from Edward (*temp.* Mary I.) and not from an older creation. Mary did not revoke the attainder of Henry Courtenay, Marquis of Exeter (*temp.* Henry VIII.), nor had Henry VIII. revoked the former attainder of the Wars of the Roses. Therefore the present Earl of Devon would correctly number from Mary's creation (1553). On the death of William Courtenay, 3rd Viscount Courtenay (and by the decision of 1831, Earl of Devon), the title of Earl of Devon devolved immediately upon his cousin William Courtenay, eldest surviving son of Henry Reginald Courtenay, Bishop of Exeter by the Lady Elizabeth Howard his wife. This

(a) It is said that Lord Brougham was afterwards rallied about this by Lord Campbell. (See "Times" obituary notices of 5th and 7th Feb., 1927) but why he should have been is not very apparent.

William was Recorder of Exeter, and Clerk to the Parliaments." (This is the cousin before referred to.) "He married Harriet, daughter of Sir John Lucas Pepys, M.D., by Jane Elizabeth Leslie, and became High Steward of the University of Oxford, besides being Chairman of the Devon Commission in Ireland. He was 10th Earl of Devon of the creation of Mary. He was succeeded by his son William Reginald as 11th Earl, who died 1888, and was succeeded by his eldest surviving son Edward Baldwin as 12th Earl, and who died 1891. The title then reverted to the second son of William the 10th Earl, Henry Hugh Courtenay, Rector of Powderham. He died 1904, and was succeeded by his grandson Charles Pepys Courtenay eldest son of Henry Reginald Lord Courtenay by Lady Evelyn Pepys his wife, as 14th Earl. On his death (unmarried) his title passed to the second son of Henry Reginald, viz: Henry Hugh Courtenay at one time Rector of Powderham, as 15th (the present) Earl.

It has been allowed, probably as there is no second title to the Earl of Devon, that the eldest son of an Earl of Devon should be by courtesy styled Lord Courtenay; thus Edward Baldwin was so styled during his father's (11th Earl's) lifetime, and Henry Reginald, son of the 13th Earl was so styled until his death in the lifetime of his father the 13th Earl." (a).

The writer makes no apology for thus briefly relating the history of this family; for their history is that of the Lords of Lymington for 500 years, and also the history of the Borough Arms, and the history of Lymington's Charters and progress, as well as (in early times) the history of England. Their grants have been referred to again and again in Courts of Law; and on every public occasion on which a reference to the Borough is made, this family is necessarily spoken of, or is uppermost in one's thoughts. (b).

(a) Communicated by Lord Halifax.

- (b) This chapter is too compressed to create the interest which a more extended story of the Courtenays would give. The writer, however, had to remember that it is merely an adjunct to the History of Lymington and to compress it accordingly.

CHAPTER III.

FEUDAL LYMINGTON.

"At first they were merely salt boilers and fishermen . . . they obtained charters which gave them the town to do with it as they pleased . . . paying their lord a fixed rent." ("Martyrdom of Man" by W. Reade, in his account of Venice.)

The town of Lymington, although it may have been, relatively, a more important place in British and Roman times, was a very small village at the time of the Conquest, comprising a cluster of houses at the Quay Side and in Gosport Street. Close by, at Woodside, was a farm of 120 acres, occupied by one Fulcuin, at which some of the free villagers was employed in addition to the serfs, and in the view of the Domesday Book assessors this farm was of more value than the village.

There were no salt works then at Lymington, although there were some not far away.

The Manor of Lymington, which took its name from the town which it enclosed and was co-extensive in area with the present parish, was created at the Conquest and given to Earl Roger, of Shrewsbury, together with the Manor of Bræmore, the Manor of Christchurch, (Twynham), and the Isle of Wight, and it is probable that the salt works, which afterwards made Lymington so valuable a possession, were created in his time, some of the villagers working there-at in villeinage, and some as free paid labourers. Earl Roger, of Shrewsbury, was succeeded by his son, Hugh, who died in 1098, and was succeeded by his brother, Robert, who, in 1120, suffered forfeiture when his possessions were granted to Richard de Redvers, Earl of Devon, who, and whose pescendants, remained the feudal lords of Lymington until the

time of Henry VIII. as previously related. Shortly after taking possession of his domain de Redvers founded the Abbey of Quarr, and endowed it with a tithe of the Lymington salt, of which faithful accounts appear to have been kept by his "bayliff," or reeve, who in after years seems to have become synonymous with the chief townsman. As these Norman lords were always engaged in warfare, either on the borders of Wales and Scotland or in France, and the Lymington folk were trustworthy and well able to defend themselves, Baldwin de Redvers, 1150, to save the expense of equipping soldiers and on condition that they themselves undertook the defence of the town, bestowed upon the townsfolk a charter (probably one of the earliest in the kingdom) incorporating the town, which afterwards, when the place increased in size, became known as the "Old Borough." The Normans had built the Church at Boldre, and also the chapels of Brockenhurst and Lymington, and in accordance with the religious notions of the time, Baldwin de Redvers, who was then the feudal lord and owner, granted them all to Christchurch with a further donation of salt at about the same time (1141-55).

Lymington prospered under the Norman rule and spread out along the High Street and the bye-ways as far as the Church, and between 1184 and 1216 a subsequent charter was given by William de Redvers (6th Earl) incorporating the new area, afterwards called the Borough of New Lymington, to distinguish it from the "Old Borough." For some reason (a) the Manor was afterwards divided into the Manors of Old and New Lymington, the two Boroughs being then synonymous with the Manor of New Lymington, while the other Manor (Old Lymington) comprised the houses and lands on the outskirts, including the houses which had been

- (a) The reason appears to have been that the "Old Borough" having been burnt down two or three times the remaining portion of the town west of the Church which was outside the Borough came to be called the "Old Town"; and therefore the Borough itself when rebuilt was called "New Lymington," and gave that name to the Manor of New Lymington.

built at "the top of the town." This last Charter was again confirmed by Baldwin, the 8th Earl, when, in 1251, he gave some land called "Theolonius" afterwards named Barfields (or Borough-fields) to the town in the following words:—"Let my heirs, take care if so be any would serve me faithfully, to treat the Burgesses reasonably and kindly. The aforesaid Burgesses and their heirs shall give to me, and my heirs, each for his own messuage annually 6d. for all services, viz.: 3d. at Easter and 3d. at the Feast of St. Michæl. And for that service the Burgesses shall (each in his own fief and hereditament) have the aforesaid liberties, freedom and repose as in the Charter of William de Redvers, once Earl of good memory, is more particularly set out. I assign and grant to these Burgesses *Theolonius* to the said Borough, together with the increase arising therefrom on the north side of the Lymington Church, to have and to hold for themselves and their heirs in perpetuity from me and my heirs, freely, and in peace, by paying annually to me and my heirs 30 shillings (*solidos*) at two annual terms, viz.: Easter and the feast of St. Michæl, and market tollage at the feast of St. Matthew, together with the fees and perquisites reserved for me and my heirs. Let the Burgesses and their heirs in the new Borough itself hold to the said increase and liberties of whatever kind, and the free customs and securities they shall hold, which William de Redvers, one time Earl of Devon, and I, concede to our Burgesses of Lymington. And that this my gift concession and confirmation of my present Charter may remain valid, and enduring, I have confirmed this present writing under my seal with the following Witnesses etc., etc."

The name of "Theolonius" is puzzling; but clearly it referred to Barfields as there was no other land to the north of the Church, and in an old map, made 500 years afterwards, Barfields can be seen north of the Church laid out in strips occupied by Burgesses. After this gift of land, which

was included in the Boroughs, the two Boroughs came to be called the "Borough", or the "100 acres," the two being just about 100 acres in extent, or more accurately 105 acres. Any house or land outside this "100 acres" was not recognised as part of the Borough, though in after years dues were sometimes taken by the Mayor from these out-dwellers. In addition to this 105 acres, the Burgesses always claimed the river and estuary, as being part of the Borough. Within this 105 acres, and over the river, the Mayor and Burgesses exercised their jurisdiction as limited by the various Charters, and monopolised to themselves what was really intended for the inhabitants at large by the system of nominating Burgesses, which will be explained later.

On the 12th June, 1257, a Charter was granted to "Baldwin de Insula" in the following words: "The King to the Archbishops, etc., saluting. Know ye that we have granted, and by this our Charter confirmed for us and our heirs, to our loving Baldwin de Insula, son and heir of Baldwin de Insula, Earl of Devon, to him and his heirs for ever, and that he have for ever one fair at his Manor of Lymington each year within the vigil of the feast of St. Matthew, the Apostle. Witness etc."

This festival fell on the 21st September (a). About the time of James I. or Charles I. the practice was introduced of holding the fairs on 12th—13th May, and the 2nd—3rd October. An account of them is given in the 10th Chapter.

On the 9th June, 1270, Isabella de Fortibus sealed her famous Charter granting "all liberties and free usages derived from toll with all other usages which the free Burgesses have through all my territory in farm lands and roads ashore, and on the sea in bridges and fords in harbours, and in fairs and markets for selling and buying within and without the

(a) Another fair was granted about 1315 which was held on the feast of St. Philip and St. James.

Borough in all places and things pertaining to me and my heirs. I have also granted to the said Burgesses that they may be free and undisturbed in their shires and hundreds, and that all questions that shall arise in the said Borough shall be pleaded in the Borough itself in the presence of our bailiff for the time being. And if any fine be imposed let it be imposed among the Burgesses themselves, and by themselves, and let no fine so far as it concerns me amount to more than 30 pence, and this by the counsel and judgment of the Burgesses themselves. I have granted likewise that none of them shall be appointed to any office in the Borough unless they elect him by common consent, and present him to me and my heirs, it being provided that such person be one who shall serve me faithfully, and treat the Burgesses reasonably and kindly." (Then follows the reservation of a fee of 6d. annually payable at Easter and St. Michael "and for that payment they shall hold their rights.")

"And they shall hold the said rights in perpetuity (except the two districts of the Abbey and convent of Beaulieu which shall hold none of the said liberties.) I have given, and granted to the said Burgesses the toll and stallage of the said Borough, together with that which Baldwin, my brother, created out of the northern part of the Church estate of Lymington (a) to be held free for ever" (reserving an annual fee of 30/-, payable at Easter and Michaelmas) "with the toll and stallage of the markets or fairs at the feast of St. Matthew."

This Charter was the origin of Mayors being elected in place of the lord's reeves by the Burgesses themselves; of their annual presentation at the Court leet where they took an oath of allegiance to the lord; of a jury of townsmen making their presentations there; of the general supervision of the town's doings during the year by that Court, and of the Mayor's supervision and collection of the lord's dues; as also of the

(a) Barfields.

jurisdiction of the Mayor and Burgesses within the town ; all of which lasted until the passing of the Municipal Corporation Act, 1835. It was also the origin of the river dues and customs.

Among the witnesses to the Charter of Isabella are Lord de la Warre (from whose descendant the Delaware Indians and river were afterwards so named); William Spyleman, ancestor of Sir Henry Spelman the great antiquary, and of the Spyleman who in 1365 gave a field at Efford (Damerosehay or Holme's Mead) to the Corporation; and Henry Trenchard, to whose ancestor the Manor of Hordle had been given in 1102, and who had been collector of Danegelt for the Isle of Wight. This family of Trenchard were long associated with the town, possessing both Hordle and Walhampton, and a George Trenchard was Mayor in 1736 when he was very much associated with the Burrards, as will hereafter appear.

The Abbey of Beaulieu had been granted extraordinary privileges by King John in his Charter founding that Abbey (*a*) and amongst those privileges were freedom from all tolls and customs throughout England. The Abbot was a large importer of wine and goods from France and elsewhere, and had a warehouse near the quay and land on the site of Nelson Place (*b*). His monks were frequently in the town doing business and certainly had the right to be free of taxes and customs under their Charters. It will be remembered, however, that Isabella of the Isle had suffered imprisonment and attempted robbery of her lands by the Prior of Bræmore, and the memory of this, doubtless, prejudiced her against the Clergy, so that in consequence of this, she had specially excluded the Abbey and Convent of Beaulieu from her grant to the burgesses of Lymington. The burgesses took advantage of this fact to tax

(*a*) Preserved in the Record Office.

(*b*) In a map dated 1680 the gardens there are marked "Abbot's tenure" and until recent times belonged to Lord Montagu the successor to Henry VIII's donee.

the monks, and the monks resented this because by their own Charters granted by King John they were free. In those days the nobles in their own domains, so long as they fulfilled their feudal duties, were practically as powerful as the King, so the burgesses upheld their Charter, and the monks their own. This led to quarrels and a law suit. At length, however, through the good offices of Hugh de Courtenay, Lord of the Town, a settlement was arrived at, and an agreement signed between the parties, whereby the Abbot agreed to help to defend the town in consideration of being toll free. The following (believed to be the first translation) is a copy of this memorable agreement. (a).

“ Be it known to all present and future that since between the religious men the Abbot and Monastery of Beaulieu Regis and the freeholders or burgesses of Lymington there had arisen a strife or contention in the Court of the Lord King through the Bailiffs of the said town having seized and detained certain goods pertaining to the aforesaid Religious, exacting from the said Abbot and Monastery tax and other customs by reason of the business which they and their servants carry on in the same town, the aforesaid Religious on the contrary asserting that they and their servants both by reason of the properties they have in the said town, and on account of specific Charters and deeds, ought to be free from tax and customs in the same town. At length through the mediation of discerning and discreet men and especially by the interposition of the good offices of the Noble Lord Hugh de Courtenay (b) Lord of the said town the aforementioned strife and contention has been settled in this way—namely—that the aforesaid freeholders or Burgesses shall recognise and concede that the said Religious and their successors, both themselves, and by their

(a) This copy is made from a very old Latin copy, apparently made not so very many years after the date of the agreement, and in the possession of the Town Council. The original is believed to be in the British Museum.

(b) Successor to Isabella.

servants, shall for all time freely and peacefully possess the right in the said town or anywhere in the freedom thereof, as Co-burgesses of the said town, to buy or sell or carry on any legitimate business without tax or custom whatever, and shall enjoy all other liberties and exemptions like any other freeholder or Burgess of the aforesaid town, without malicious interference or contradiction, for them, their heirs or assigns or the Bailiffs of any of them established in the same town And the aforesaid Abbot and Community for themselves and their successors wish and agree that they should contribute for the defence of the liberty of the town with all the other Burgesses so much as pertains to their Holdings (*Burgagia*) in the said town as after as by the common council and consent it should appear necessary. In testimony of this perpetual peace and agreement the aforesaid Abbot and Community on the one side of this writing have appended the seal of their community and the said freeholders or Burgesses and for greater security William Lyteltane, for the time being mayor of the said town, Hugo son of Robert Thomas, Robert Le Byrd, Thomas Attegard Henry Le Chaundeler and John Robt by the unanimous assent of all on the other part have appended their seals in the presence of these witnesses :

Henry de Welles
 Nicholas de Cantreton
 Walter Scurlag
 Andrea de Cantreton
 John Aygnel
 John de Langebriggs
 (and others.)

Given at Lymington at the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Mary in the 12th year of the reign of King Edward the son of King Edward." (1319 A.D.)

It will be observed that under this agreement the Abbot was not to help to defend the town with his whole force, as is commonly supposed, but only in proportion to his holding.

The first known subsequent mention of the "bailiff and community" of Lymington occurs in their reply to the mandate of Edward I. for the supply of three ships for his navy. The larger ships they said were "at sea and in the keeping of God"; they had "only little cogges left and those were not sufficient for war". However, they offered to furnish one large ship at their own cost for three weeks after the Assumption. In 1324 the King demanded two ships instead of one from Lymington, the "Boldre" and "Kyavene", and two years later Maurice de Brune and others were appointed to survey the ships of over 50 tons burden in the town of Lymington. Some of the names of these merchantmen have been preserved (a).

It has been recorded that in the year 1280 the line of the New Forest still extended to the sea-coast. This was re-afforested land which joined up to the wood on the coast (Woodside) mentioned in the first Chapter.

In 1338 (and again in 1370) there was an incursion of the French who took the Isle of Wight and burnt down Portsmouth, Newtown, and Yarmouth as well as Lymington. On such an occasion as this the alarm bell at the town house would be rung and the members of the train band would run there to get their morions and weapons to repel the foe. It would be indeed interesting if there were an authentic account of this sally, and of the part the Abbot's soldiers took (if any) in the defence of the town under the recently executed agreement.

Thomas atte Gardyn or Gardynier, who was one of the signatories to the Abbot's deed, was a landowner of considerable importance in Old Lymington. In 1299 he held that Manor with Twynham (Christchurch), apparently by sub-infeudation. His name is commemorated in "Gardiner's Harbour" in Massachusetts, to which place there was a considerable

emigration from Lymington and Southampton in 1642, many Gardiners being of the party.

In 1320 (Edward II.) there was an action by Simon Clerk of Lymington, Merchant, against Thomas le Gust of Southampton, Merchant, which action was settled by release and payment. There happens to be a record of this particular action; but no doubt there were many other instances where recourse was had to the Courts. It is mentioned here to show how much advanced in trade and civilised usages Lymington had become at this time.

This advance in trade and prosperity is admirably shewn by the fact that there was a great demand for shop sites in New Street between 1330 and 1398, no less than fourteen of these grants of land being now in the British Museum. There were also contracts to build shops, one of these dated 1334, being also in the Museum. This was the time when, in consequence of the decay of agriculture, the advance of pastoral feeding of sheep, the consequent exports of wool, and competition with Flanders, guilds of craftsmen arose in every town, who were very jealous of strangers. In every similar town in England those who intruded, although Englishmen and perhaps neighbours, were in consequence looked upon and called "foryners". It cannot be too often recalled that besides the various petty crafts of weaving, dyeing, candle and brick-making, brewing, broom-making, etc., etc., there were also the comparatively great industries of ship-building and salt making in Lymington, and that Lymington was an important port on a par with Southampton and Poole. No wonder, therefore, that the town was prosperous as well as being, like most other towns of the period, practically self-contained.

A Lymington document dated 1340 in the possession of Mr. Coates of the British Museum is interesting. The deed stipulates that the consideration should be paid in lead ingots.

In 1349, Nicholas de Stok, a Merchant of Norwich, and Thomas de Coventry, a Merchant of Bristol, chartered the "Rode" cog of Lymington, John de Van, master, to bring wine, mead, leather, canvas, and other goods from Harfleur to England. Again in 1342, a barge at Lymington was trading with wine and other merchandise between Brittany and Weymouth. These, no doubt, are merely instances (which happen to have been recorded) of what was constantly taking place. Salisbury seems to have looked upon Lymington as a convenient port, for in 1434 one of her merchants complained of the arrest of his ship the "Marie" of Lymington, and in 1462 the citizens chartered the "Trinity" of the same port as their contribution to the fleet that put to sea under the Earl of Kent and Lord Audley. These again are but instances. It is recorded that in the 14th century Lymington contributed more ships for foreign service than Portsmouth.

In 1365, Sir William Spileman, Lord of the Manor of Efford, conveyed a meadow called "Damerosehay" (Primrose field?) and afterwards "Bownedown" and "Holmes Mead" to William Sanedon (from whose name Sandy Down is said to be derived). This field was afterwards conveyed by John Bowne (who had charge of Lymington under Christchurch Priory) to John Geyllis, on whose death it became, by virtue of the assignment of the reversion under that deed, the property of the Lymington Corporation, who subsequently held it for about 500 years. This fact is the more interesting because the Town Council possess nearly the whole series of title deeds (12 in number), and they throw a wonderful light on the history of the times. The deeds are very small, indented, and beautifully written in Latin in monkish caligraphy. They shew that at one time there were five clerics in charge at the Church and that the style of conveyancing was much the same (the same phrases as now being often used) as it is at

the present time. It was indeed these monks who, alone possessing the necessary education, originated all our present day style of legal draftsmanship. On viewing these deeds one is irresistably reminded of the missals turned out in the monkish scriptorium, and of pictures in the Cottonian and other M.S.S. portraying these clerics or clerks with their ink bottles and quivers and pens attached to their girdles. The rent from Damerosehay, together with the tolls and dues from the fairs, markets, and river, and the quit rents from encroaching townsmen, formed the whole of the town revenue down to the date of Municipal reform. The meadow was eventually exchanged with Colonel Sheddon on the 19th August, 1835, for land at Woodside, which was subsequently sold to get money for a new Town hall, but which, as appears later, was never applied for that purpose. Sir William Spileman, as has been stated, was the ancestor of the famous antiquary Spelman, and if the latter's shade could have been present when this vandalism occurred, it might have been considerably grieved.

In 1379, we have more evidence of Lymington's prosperity from a bond for £70 which has been preserved (a) given by Roger Mascal of Southampton to John Le Clerk of Lymington, Merchant. It appears, therefore, to be a mistake to think that Venetians and Lombards had a monopoly of the usages of trade at that time.

In 1397, John Borrard, one of the ancestors, or a brother of an ancestor, of the Burrards who afterwards settled in Lymington, received a royal patent appointing him nineteenth Prior of Christchurch Monastery, and his tomb can be seen on the stone floor of the Priory Church.

In 1405, Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, confirmed the grant of his predecessor Isabella, and made further concessions, or what he thought were such, confirming the grant

(a) In Southampton Archives.

of all tolls and river and port dues, enacting that no one should enjoy them but the burgesses, with the perquisites of the fairs, reserving a quit rent of 2s. for the latter. The Charter says "We have also given and granted to our burgesses the market rights in the Highe Streete together with the toll and stallage pertaining to same." A Latin copy of this Charter, reciting the previous grant of Isabella, is with the town records. This is the street market held in Lymington at the present day, now miserably dwindled, it is true, but historically the same. (a)

On the 24th June, 1409, by a deed of that date commencing after the usual monkish style of the period, "To all true Christian people to whom this present writing shall come," and which is in the possession of the Town Council, the Mayor and Burgesses granted to John Peperwhyte, who was doubtless a butcher or "flesher", a plot of ground with a frontage of eleven feet and a depth of forty feet, part of "la Fleschamelrewe" (b) or Flesshettes (now corrupted to "Flushards") on a lease for sixty years. This "Flesh shambles," or meat-slaughtering place, was for centuries before in the possession of the burgesses as tenants of the lord of the Manor. The particular plot in the High Street leased to Peperwhyte would be the place where he exercised his trade of slaughterer and butcher, and exhibited his meat for sale, and the other butchers had their shops or stalls in the "Shambles" near him. How the field at the back, on which the Council houses now stand, came to be called the "Flushards" (Flesshettes) is not clear; but probably the butchers used it to graze or impound their cattle. (Further particulars of the "Shambles" are related in Chapter 8 under date 1669).

In 1426 two men of Lymington (they were great seafarers in those days) committed acts of piracy against the "Christopher of Keys".

In 1445 Southampton was incorporated.

(a) A further account of the street market is given in Chapter 10.

(b) So it is translated by the British Museum Latinist.

On the 14th February, 1465, Juliana Tevant, widow, of "Lymyngton", gave to "John Quicke" "now Reeve (a) of Lymington" and the Burgesses a messuage with half an acre of land fronting "le highe streete" of Lymington, on condition that they gave $\frac{3}{4}$ to the poor, and paid the lord's dues. This messuage appears to have been used as the Manor Hall and also as the Town Hall for many years previously. After the gift had been made the Burgesses built a real Town Hall (the first Town Hall) on the site, which was on the south side of High Street, where Nos. 30 and 31 now stand. On the back of the deed, in an old hand, is written "the deed of the Town House late in the possession of Giles Samber." (b). This Town Hall was left standing after the French had burnt down the town in 1545, and in 1581 it is mentioned in the Mayor's accounts as "the town hall and the backsyd behind the same." Besides being used for the Court leet and for Burgesses' "halls," the hall was used for storing the weapons and accoutrements of the Burgesses, and subsequently of the train-bands, which weapons, &c., however, appear to have been Corporation property, as charges for cleaning them appear in the Mayor's accounts.

In 1482, as appears from a deed of grant of a pasture called "Cattfurlong," in the British Museum, the Mayor of Lymington was still called "Reeve".

In 1491, for some reason, it was deemed necessary to again confirm the Town Charters, and accordingly, on that date, Hugh Conway and his wife did so in the following words. "Confirmation of Charter (c) granted by Issabella de Fortibus

- (a) This is how it was discovered that John Quicke was Mayor in that year. "Reeve", "bailiff" and "Mayor" were synonymous names at that period. The Mayor succeeded to the duties of the lord's reeve or bailiff after the town became corporate.
- (b) This might be an ancestor of the Samber, attorney, of Lyon's Inn when various town documents were sent him for the purposes of an action in 1726. Mr. King puts the writing at about 1620.
- (c) A Latin copy is in the possession of the Corporation.

and recital thereof, and also of the subsequent grant of the Earl of Devon by Hugh Conway and Elizabeth his wife one of the daughters and heirs of Thomas Earl of Devon, in the sixth year of the reign of King Henry VII. after the Couquest. To all to whom these present letters shall come We Hugo Conway, Knight, and Elizabeth my wife one of the daughters and heirs of Thomas lately Earl of Devon greeting in the Lord. We have examined the Charter which the Lady Isabella de Fortibus lately Countess of Albemarle Devon and Lady of the Island conceded to our burgesses of Lymington in these words." (here follows a recital from that Charter). "Let all present and future know that we confirm the same and the Charter of Edward Courtenay Earl of Devon in these words : " (Here follows a recital from that Charter).

On the 26th December, 1523, Gille (feminine of Giles, latinised as "Egidia") Wolvin "enfeoffed," (in the cumbrous style of conveyancing invented by the Normans), Tristram Fauntleroy and others with certain houses and lands for the purpose of regranting them to herself, and one Henry Asheley as trustees in order to pay the "Guardians" of the Churches of Brockenhurst and Lymington 10/- per annum each to have masses sung for her soul. On the 4th May, 1524, this re-grant (a) was made, and enumerated the payments to be made out of the 10/- (which at that time was a sum immensely more valuable than it is now), with meticulous care. The town crier of Lymington, commonly called "the Bedman," was to have 6d. of it for providing ringers; each of the officiating priests was to have 8d.; the parish clerk 4d.; each of the four boys, who should assist "bi note" i.e., singing, 4d.; and the balance was to be given for supplying bread, beer, and cheese to the parishioners, and for offertory money, and for wax candles. There are many interesting features revealed by this deed. Singing "bi note," for instance, was

(a) The deed is in the Town Chest, and a translation has been made and hung in the Town Hall.

something new and wonderful at that time. It appears that at Brockenhurst Church there were five priests and two clerks. The fact of the town crier being called the "Bedman" and providing the ringers, and of the lunch being provided, gives a wonderful insight into the customs of the times. No doubt the masses were sung, and all the directions in the deed (which are much more meticulous than as mentioned in this brief summary) carried out until after the Reformation, when presumably the lands were forfeited to the Crown as having been granted to "superstitious uses."

The Charter of Isabella was, as stated, the origin of Mayors being elected in place of the lord's bailiff. Like the bailiffs, the Mayor was responsible for the lord's dues, and probably in early days he owed his influence chiefly to this fact. There is no record of the names of the earliest Mayors; but in 1319, as appears by a deed previously mentioned, one William Lyteltane was Mayor, and, with a few rather wide gaps, the list of Mayors since that date has been compiled from various sources, so that the list is fairly complete from that time (a). It is mentioned in an old entry in one of the Town books that in a grant of the time of Henry IV., the Mayor was then called *Præpositus novæ Lymington* (b). The Borough Arms were depicted as a one-masted ancient ship, to which was afterwards added the Arms of Courtenay on a shield dependent upon the sinister side of the mast. Probably it was owing to his influence as the lord's representative that the householders in the town were never considered as the proper recipients of the lord's bounty, and the benefits and gifts of the Charters were appropriated by Burgesses nominated by the Mayor in a peculiar way. The method of electing these Burgesses, and the Mayor, seems to have always been the same down to 1835, and was as

(a) The list is painted up in the Town Hall.

(b) The Borough was included in "New Lymington" Manor as previously stated.

follows:—The Mayor was elected on the Sunday after the feast of St. Matthew by the Mayor and Burgesses from what was called the "Record." The Record contained three names, that of the Mayor for the time being, and two other Burgesses. On this day the Burgesses met at a "Hall" (after being summoned personally, as regards the residents, by the Town Clerk and Macebearer or Town Sergeant), and the name of the resigning Mayor was struck out of the Record. He then proposed to them the names of three Burgesses out of which to elect one to fill up the Record. Any Burgess, however, might propose the name of a Burgess; in this event all the names were called out by the Mayor, and from them he and the Burgesses, by a majority of votes, determined the one to be placed upon the Record. As soon as the new name was placed upon the record, the new Mayor, by a majority of votes, was elected out of the three. The names of the two persons not elected remained upon the Record until the next election. The Mayor, after being elected, was presented by the jury at the Court-leet and sworn in before the Steward, until which time he could not act, and the retiring Mayor continued in office.

Before the election the Steward of the Court-leet caused notice thereof to be given by the parish clerk in the Church on the preceding Sunday of what day in the following week it was intended to hold the next Michaelmas Court-leet, and after having taken the oath of allegiance to the Lord at that Court, the Mayor appointed a deputy; but that deputy was never sworn. It was the pleasant immemorial custom for the Mayor at his presentation to present the jury with a dozen of wine. Many records of past Mayoral elections are still in existence, and the manner of voting and actual voting marks may there be seen. Opposite each of the three names of candidates a line was extended. The Burgesses then each made a stroke across the extended line of the candidate for whom he voted. It is with a

weird feeling that one sees in the polling records in the Town Chest the actual marks of these old Burgesses dead long years ago.

The Burgesses were elected by the Mayor and Burgesses, and no qualification, except that of residence, was necessary. On his election a Burgess took the Burgess oath, which included an oath of allegiance, and was presented, after having signed the Burgess roll, with a penny as a symbolical seisin of the town. The qualification of residence, which in early days was insisted on, was dropped in the latter days of rivalry between the Burrards and Powletts. The fees of admission to Burgessship were £3 3s. for stamps and parchment certificate, £3 3s. to the Town Clerk, £1 1s. to his Clerk, and £1 1s. to the Town Sergeant. These fees were not nearly so high at first, but afterwards were purposely raised to keep out the commonalty. No doubt the Charters intended the Burgesses to be all the male householders of the Borough, but the latter were excluded by the manoeuvring of the intelligensia.

The Mayor's duties were to regulate the markets and fairs, repair the wharf and town properties, collect the tolls, pay the lord's dues, see to the election of Burgesses, and to exercise a vague kind of jurisdiction over trade and the inhabitants generally. The Court-leet also exercised a kind of paramount jurisdiction over the affairs of the town under Isabella's Charter. As the Mayor was considered the head of the town, his time was frequently taken up by vagrants and others. He was the treasurer of the Borough, all the receipts were paid over to him, and all orders and payments made by him. On going out of office he submitted his year's accounts to the Burgesses. The balance was generally in his favour to a small amount, but this was very rarely paid to him. He had no salary; he had some emoluments, almost nominal, viz: one bushel of coals out of every collier that discharged at the port, and the best fish from every boat bringing fish to

the Quay (afterwards commuted for 6d.) The revenue of the Corporation was derived from the following sources :—

1. Holme's Mead generally let for £8 a year.
2. A few shops and tenements belonging to the Corporation.
3. The tolls of fairs and markets, annually let out by tender.

A table of these tolls was painted and hung up in the Market-house. Persons were not allowed to hawk their goods about the town till after twelve in the day ; before that time they must have exposed them in the Market-house. The lessee of the tolls was called the Clerk of the Market.

4. QUAY DUES. These dues were taken upon all goods exported or imported, and there was also a toll called "wheelidge" of 2d. for every load drawn over the Quay to and from a vessel, and 1d. for every load from a neighbouring Quay which passed the Corporation Quay. These Quay dues were generally let.

5. RIVER DUES. These were dues payable by all vessels which came within the river inside of the beacon called "Jack-in-the-Basket," and varied from 4d. to 2/6 according to the size of the vessel. These dues were also annually let out. The beacon "Jack-in-the-Basket" probably dates from the time of Edward I.

6. QUIT RENTS. These were small acknowledgments paid by encroachers on the wastes of the Corporation, or into the streets, as by a bow window and the like.

In the early days of the Borough the annual expenditure of the Mayor was usually about £50. In latter times it amounted

to nearly £80, as may be seen from the following accounts for the year 1831-2 :—

	£	s.	d.
Salary and Bill of Town Clerk ...	6	16	9
Ditto of Town Sergeant ...	10	14	7
Rates paid in respect of market ...	3	19	6
Church Ringers ...	2	2	0
Wine for the Court-leet Jury ...	3	4	6
Incidental Expenses ...	10	8	8
Repairs to the Market, Town Hall, Wharf, etc. ...	42	6	4
	79	12	4
The income collected this year was ...	68	19	5
Leaving a Balance due to the Mayor of	£10	12	11

The Mayor and the Burgesses together exercised administrative powers. They passed bye-laws, fixed tolls, gave or withheld licenses to traders, and fined offenders. The Mayor punished vagrants and others, using the pillory, stocks, cucking stool, and whipping post which stood by the Town Hall, and there was a jail or blind-house which stood first in the High Street by the Town Hall, and afterwards in New Lane, and which was abolished about 1850. All proclamations were made at the Market Cross which was in the centre of the High Street.

The town officials were the constables, the Ale-taster (an important office when ale was the universal drink,) hayward, searchers and sealers of leather, and meterers or measurers and weighers, who usually were collectors also. In later times there was also a Town Clerk, and a Town Sergeant. All these officers (except the Town Clerk) were appointed at the Court-leet.

Up to the end of the 16th century, and perhaps later, the defence of the town was entrusted to the inhabitants who, at the sound of the alarm bell, went to the Town Hall where their arms were kept, and mustered as a kind of train-band. Until the Reformation they might also depend on the partial aid of the Abbot of Beaulieu, who was pledged to help to defend the town. Their arms belonged to the Corporation, and the following entries (at a later date) give some clue to the situation :—

		s.	d.
1658.	For poles, lines and nails for hanging up the arms etc. ...	2	0
1630.	For cleaning the town corsletts ...	1	0
1644.	For bringing up the corsletts from the Key ...	1	0
1662.	Paid for one Buckram Coat ...	5	2

In 1545, a French fleet under Claude D'Annebout, sailed into the Solent, landed on the Island, entered Portsmouth Harbour and sank the "Mary Rose" in that port, and, as they could not provoke the English into a general engagement, they passed through the Solent burning villages along the coast, including Lymington. Several small cannon balls believed to have been fired at that time have been recovered, two from Flushards (a).

An interesting fact recorded in Woodward's "History of Hampshire" is that Henry VIII. left £100 by Will to William St. Barbe an ancestor of the St. Barbes, the Lymington Bankers of later date. (This suggests an interesting subject for original research).

Of personal or local events during the whole of this period there are but few records. Such records as there are, however, show that during feudal times Lymington and

(a) They weigh about six pounds each. One is in the possession of Mr. E. Hapgood, J.P. ; another with Major N. Dickinson, D.S.O..

Southampton grew up together as rivals in trade and importance. Both possessed and built ships, and had a great exporting and importing trade, wool being the Southampton staple, and salt that of Lymington. The latter exported in addition bricks and grain, and both towns imported wines and continental goods. Lymington was self-centred and averse to "strangers" and "forrynners," and intensely local. A better picture of the manners of the time could hardly be given than that presented by Conan Doyle's novel, "The White Company," in which Beaulieu Abbey and the district is humourously sketched. During the whole period of the domination of the de Redvers and Courtenays they seem never to have interfered with the affairs of the town, except in a kindly way, and to have been content to receive their dues, and "reliefs" through their reeve, and afterwards through their Steward at the Court-leet. We have called this Chapter the feudal period because it tallies with the period of domination of Lymington's feudal lords; but in the time of Elizabeth the power of the Monarchy had over-ridden that of the nobles, so that feudalism had dwindled down to a mere payment of fines, reliefs, and quit rents, with Court supervision.

During the existence of the Monasteries the needs of the great establishments at Christchurch, Beaulieu, and Winchester led to frequent interchange of visits; and Lymington (probably at the small Monastic establishment which is supposed to have existed in Waterford Lane) was a midway place of rest. To visit Beaulieu the monks crossed the Ford at the Shallows on foot or horseback, and for their guidance on the tracks they planted yew trees at intervals, some of which are still in existence and can be traced by the curious antiquary.

The Reformation probably made little or no difference to the Lymington folk in their material affairs. With regard to

their ideas of religion, as all knowledge of the Scriptures had hitherto been sedulously kept from the masses of the people, they would hardly, for some years to come, have been able to form definite opinions of their own. The transfer of Beaulieu Abbey, and the Abbot's holdings in Lymington, to a private nobleman, as well as their separation from Christchurch, must, however, have puzzled them somewhat. They would probably have heard that their distant lord had been created a Marquis and then executed; but even this is doubtful, and the substitution of Crown ownership and leases for the old methods would only affect a few. On the whole, therefore, we may suppose that life in Lymington went on much as usual, and the growth of the Puritan spirit was yet in the Calvinistic stage.

The further history of the feudal period will be found in the next three chapters, the subjects of which are, however, for the sake of convenience brought up to date.

CHAPTER IV.

THE MANOR OF LYMINGTON.

"I think," said Prince John, "that my brother proposed to confer upon his favourite the rich Manor of Ivanhoe." (Sir W. Scott.)

At the time of the Conquest there were two Manors in Boldre, and also other Manors surrounding Lymington; but the district corresponding to the present parish of Lymington was a liberty, and did not become a Manor until it was created as such by King William who gave it, in fee, to Earl Roger, of Shrewsbury. The seat or curtilage of the Manor was the Woodside Farm mentioned in Domesday Book, and afterwards called by that name, and by the name of Manor Farm.

The question is much discussed as to whether the Elizabethan house at Woodside called the "Manor House" was the site of an original Manor House; or whether the true site was "Broadcroft" in Broad Lane, where there is a meadow called in the title deeds "Lord's Mead"; or whether there ever was a real Manor House. The probability is that there was not, as the de Redvers family had their castle at Christchurch, which they always favoured, and the Courtenays were a Devonshire family; but there was doubtless a farm house at Woodside where the Reeve or bailiff resided.

Until long after the Conquest there was no thought of such an institution as a Borough, Lymington being then, as previously stated, a small village and port (much degenerated in importance) spoken of as close to Woodside Farm, which alone was then adjudged worthy of assessment for taxation. It has been related how, on the death of Earl Roger, the Manor of Lymington descended to the next heir, his brother Robert, who

was attainted in 1102 for taking up the cause of Robert, of Normandy, in consequence of which it was forfeited to the Crown, and regranted to Richard de Redvers.

It has also been shown how, in the natural course of descent, the Manor was transmitted to Isabella de Fortibus, Countess of Devon, and how, after she had been ejected from her possessions, they were finally restored to her, and came to be possessed by her heir at law and successor, Hugh Courtenay, and how finally on the attainder and execution of the head of the Courtenay family, the Marquis of Exeter, by Henry VIII., the Manor was forfeited to the Crown. We have also seen how Henry VIII. bestowed the Manor on Catherine Howard and afterwards on Catherine Parr by way of jointure; how on the re-marriage of the latter to Sir Henry Seymour, this Nobleman was granted a life lease of it; and how Queen Mary subsequently restored the Manor to Edward Courtenay, whom she recreated Earl, but who was never able to take seisin of it by reason of his early death; and how it again reverted to the Crown. During the Crown occupation there were many leases of portions of the Manor (the Burrards being among the lessees), and the Mayor of Lymington was frequently employed to collect the Manor dues, as some of his predecessors, who were reeves or bailiffs of the lord, had been in the past. After Lymington had been burnt down and rebuilt the Manor was divided into two, the town being known and dealt with as the "Manor and Borough of New Lymington" whilst the remainder of the parish became the "Manor of Old Lymington." These Manors were quite separate but there is no record of there having been more than one owner for both. In 1593 the Crown granted or leased the Manors to William Fortescue, but seven years later it was granted in fee to Nicholas Lord Zouche and Elizabeth his wife.

The consideration, or part of the consideration, for which the Crown parted with its rights appears to have been the

reservation of a fee farm rent chargeable on the Manor lands. At the present time, unless it has been redeemed quite recently, there is still this fee farm rent of £31 5s. 4d. payable to the Crown and chargeable on the Manor of Old Lymington, although it is true the owners have been indemnified against the claim by the owners of certain other lands for value received. (a)

Lady Zouche, who survived her husband, did not keep the Manors long, but sold them in 1601 to Charles Earl of Nottingham and Katherine his wife. By this time the glory of feudalism had departed, and after they had held it for less than eight years, we find that the ownership was acquired by Abraham Campion, citizen and clothworker of London, he being the lord in 1609. He died in London in 1611, and was succeeded by his son Henry, who, or his descendants, held the Manors up to 1664, when they were mortgaged to Bartholomew Bulkeley. This gentleman, who was a connection of the Burrards, and who, in 1678, represented Lymington in Parliament, took possession of and held the Manors by himself and his successors until 1733. In that year they were purchased by one Thomas Missing and became the subject of marriage settlements. In 1785, the Manors were possessed by Elizabeth Guitton a sister of the above Thomas Missing. This is the lady who subsequently, by deed, defined or declared the borough boundaries. She was certainly in a position to do so, as her brother, if not she, was also Lord of Walhampton, and possessed much land in addition around Lymington. We find, indeed, in his title deeds that Thomas Missing possessed as his own peculiar property, which he himself farmed or let, "8 houses, 12 cottages, 15 barns, 15 stables, 20 gardens, 20 orchards, 500 acres of arable land, 400 acres of meadow and pasture, 200 acres of wood, and 300 acres of furze and heath all situate in the parishes of Lymington, Boldre, Hordle, Brockenhurst and the New Forest."

(a) This appears in old title deeds still extant.



OLD HOUSES standing on the site of 40, 41, 42, High Street (Demolished in 1842).

From the Original Drawing by T. T. Colborne, in the possession of Mr. E. Hapgood.

On the 25th March, 1805, Elizabeth Guitton sold the Manors of Lymington to George Tomline, then Bishop of Lincoln and afterwards of Winchester, for the sum of £7,800. It is worthy of note that, apparently in memory of past glories, the field called "Lord's Mead" ("Brodercroft") was specially mentioned in the conveyance. The Bishop, who appears to have bought land largely in the County, including land at Milford, devised the Manors to his son William Edward Tomline by Will on the 10th June, 1822. This gentleman, who apparently treated the Manor as a speculative investment and sold large blocks of building land, in 1834. disposed of the Manors to John Pulteney, and since that date they have been possessed successively by (1849) John Grenville Beaumont Pulteney, (1875) Keppel Pulteney and (1918) The Keyhaven Syndicate.

The ownership of Buckland (a) followed the descent of the Manor of Old Lymington. The details of the history of that underlordship would be too tedious to repeat here, and it will be sufficient to say that the following persons were at one time lords of Buckland at the dates stated.

- 1609. Ambrose Button.
- 1679. { Anne wife of Paul Burrard.
Cecilia wife of William Knapton.
Elizabeth wife of John Burrard.
- 1705. William Knapton.
- 1716. Edward Dummer.
- 1775. John Bond.
- 1802. W. E. Tomline.
- 1875. Keppel Pulteney.

(a) *Boc-lands*. Either "devil's land" from the Saxon's horror of the earth-works (see 1st Chapter) or because there were only two kinds of tenure in Saxon times "Boeland" and "Folkland" the first being held by noble service rendered. As Buckland does not appear as demesne land in Domesday Book we prefer the first definition. It is at all events more picturesque.

The Manor of Old Lymington was more remunerative than that of New Lymington, as will be seen from the following typical account appearing in the Minister's accounts for the County of Southampton (4 and 5 Ed. VI Roll 49)

OLD LYMINGTON.		£	s.	d.
Rent of assize	...	33	19	7½
Court perquisites	...	2	5	11
		36	5	6½
Expenses of Surveyor and Under-				
Steward	...	13	4	
One cartload of hay for horses		6—	13	10
		35	11	8½

(It will be observed that this amount almost tallies with the fee farm rent afterwards reserved by the Crown.)

NEW LYMINGTON.		£	s.	d.
Rent of Assize	...	5	0	0
Tolls and customs of Quay*		1	10	1
Issues of fairs*	...	2	0	
Court perquisites	...	12	2	
		7	4	3

(*The Corporation held a lease of the fairs for many years at 2s. quit rent. The same with regard to the quay tolls, etc., at £1 10s. 1d.)

The balances at the time when the Crown held the **Manors** were paid to Chidiok Poulet, Esq., a relative of the newly ennobled Powlett family afterwards Dukes of Bolton. An interesting method of the accountants of that period was to add at the end, after giving an account of the receipts and

expenditure, the words "and it is equal." This appears on all the Minister's accounts.

An examination of the Crown leases shows that houses at the end of the reign of Elizabeth were let on long leases to Ellis Burrard, William Speede, John Barnebie, John Adams, and Richard Bordel (*a*).

The parcel of land, 16 acres in extent, called the "Fleshettes" (Flushards) was leased to John Pope and after his death to his widow (*b*). On her death, John Walter, Yeoman of the Queen's Chamber, obtained the lease (*c*).

In 34 Elizabeth, land at Woodside called Staples Croft was leased to John Ashbey. In 30 Eliz., two houses in the High Street, "near land of John Burrard," and one in Gosport Street were leased to Richard Dowse (*d*).

It is interesting to note that in 1549 Sir John Mann was appointed Steward of the two Manors by Letters Patent at a salary of £3 6s. 8d. (*e*).

Having given this short account of the general history of the Manor, it might be well now to examine the Court Rolls which are now the property of the Mayor and burgesses, having been presented to them by Keppel Pulteney Esq., when he sold the Manor, and see what can be gleaned from them. These Rolls date from 1688 to 1800 and are now bound uniformly in blue boards in fifteen volumes. There are also five smaller records, some relating to the year 1652. These being, however, written in comparatively recent times, it would be better first to give a general account of the lord's jurisdiction and of the manner of carrying it into effect.

(*a*) Eliz. Roll 1 No. 28 Southants.

(*b*) Patent Rolls of Q. Eliz. part 1 Membrane 35 in Record Office.

(*c*) Ibid 32 Eliz. part 13.

(*d*) Leases for Mixed Counties enrolled in the Augmentation Roll Nr. 5 fo. 29.

(*e*) Vol. 220 Misc. Books of the Augmentation Court.

The Courts were at first held in the Hall of the Manor and afterwards in the Town Hall, where the previous Manor Hall stood. They exercised a certain amount of civil jurisdiction over the Town and its affairs (under Isabella's Charter), in addition to exacting the lord's reliefs on alienations of property, and dues, and retained the control of the constabulary. The Court was held before the Lord's Steward, and (a number of the inhabitants having first been summoned) a jury was empanelled who laid the various matters before the Court by way of presentment. The oldest records of the Manor Courts contain lists of the tenants and officers of the town, with notes of the rents due. When one gets to the more modern, and (incidentally) more legible, Rolls, they are very dry and bare, but in order to show what they were like the following entries are extracted:—

"The Manor of } to wit The Court from three weeks
Old Lymington } to three weeks there held the
nineteenth day of August, in the
year of our Lord, 1749. Before John
James Mansfield, Steward there.

Essoin to wit

Bailiff. Richard Card.

Ale Taster. Richard Hayward.

Tything Man. Henry Adams.

Hayward. Richard Hayward."

"The Manor of } to wit The Court of the said Borough
New Lymington. } from three weeks to three weeks there
held the nineteenth day of August in
the year of our Lord 1749. Before
John James Mansfield, Gent. Steward
of the said Manor.

Essoin to wit

Mayor. Edward Hooker Esq.

Constables, James, Elmer and Robert Lellington.

Ale Taster. Joseph Bound.

Hayward. Charles Lyne.

Sergeant. Richard Curtis.

Searchers and Sealers } William Collin and Thos. Sheppard.
of Leather. }

Register. Charles Lyne.

Meterers. Charles Lyne, Charles Colborne, William Parsons,
William Pitt.

Scavenger. John Rickman.

Bailiff. Richard Card."

From the above it will be seen that the Courts were held frequently, and the Borough was synonymous with the Manor of New Lymington; also, that in consequence of these frequent meetings, they were in general little more than a formality.

When there was anything to do the names of those who were sworn on the jury "to enquire as well for our Sov. Lord the King as for the Lord of the said Manor," were recorded. Unless the officers named were present they were fined. One gathers from the Court Rolls that the real business of the Court was not recorded therein except at rare intervals, otherwise it could not have been the case that for some years the only presentment made by the jury was that a Miss Pearce had caused an obstruction with a post, when the result of the solemn Court was an order that she should be written to and asked to remove it! Lists of the freeholders and leaseholders of the Borough who were summoned to attend, appear. The names are so numerous that it would seem all the residents were summoned. It was not alway such a dry business, however and occasionally presentments were made which afford a clue to the history of the times.

After the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act 1835, the civil functions of the Court disappeared and there are no more records. Until that date the jury acted as a combination

of a magisterial Court and a sanitary authority, and assumed a certain jurisdiction over the Mayor and Surveyor of the Highways. Somewhat similar powers appear to have been exercised by the Mayor, and by the Churchwardens and Overseers.

Curious instances of the jurisdiction of the Court-leet recorded at intervals in the Court Rolls are as follows:—

“Burgus de } The presentment of the King’s Jury at the Court
Lymington. } Leet and Lawday there holden on Thursday the
4th day of May Anno. Dom. 1727.

1726. We present that no Hoggs go about Street on pain of Sixpence each hogg and that the Hayward pay 4d. for each Hogg Offending and not by him impounded.

We present the Dung lying in the Street from the Church to the Key to be carryed away by the proper persons by the 15th day of June next on pain of 5d. each person making Default and the loss of the Dung.

We present Gregory Masson a ffreeholder for the houses his late Brother’s for a relief to the Lord.

We present the Death of Mr. Henry Hackman and a Relief due to the Lord.

We present Obadiah Newell ffreeholder for the Tenement late John Neivills and a Relief due to the Lord.

We present Thomas Dummer Esq a Freeholder for the Estate late of John Button Esq and a Relief due to the Lord.

We present the Right Hon : Henry Lord Arrundele of Warder a Freeholder for the Estate his late Father’s and a Relief due to the Lord.

We present that Moses Rawkins take down or otherwise secure from fire his working shop by the

4th of June next on pain of Twenty shillings he making default.

We present that the Timber on the East side of New Lane be removed from thence by the 4th day of June next on pain of Ten shillings each person making default and that no person lay any Timber there for the future on the like penalty.

We present the Chimney in Mrs. Rigg's Brewhouse very much out of repair and very dangerous as to Fire and that the same be sufficiently repaired and secured by the 11th Instant on pain of Twenty shillings."

(Here follow the signatures of sixteen Jurymen)

1726. We present that no butcher throw his guts into the Street on pain of $3/4$ each person offending.
1735. We present that the beer quart and pint commonly used by the Ale-taster to be bulged and not fit to measure by.
1722. We present Mrs. Annie Gates to pay $3/4$ for several of her shop weights being light.
1746. We present Mrs. Sarah Churley's weights to be bad and underweight and that she forthwith pay for the same the sum of $13/4$.

Other presentments are that a "fire-bell" should be put up and the bridge repaired. On the 24th April, 1730, the number of inhabitants summoned to appear were 160.

The Manor of Old Lymington was entitled to forest rights, but that of new Lymington (the borough) was not. At the great Swainmote of Lyndhurst held in 1670 the Mayor and burgesses claimed and obtained rights of common, of turbary, pasture, and pannage in right of their holdings. These rights, not having been exercised for many years afterwards, lapsed.

The powers which the Court took upon itself in fining delinquents appear to be directly contrary to the town charters which gave the burgesses alone the power of fining, and that in not more than a fixed sum. Their interference with borough affairs at all, except to confirm the appointment of officials, seems unjustifiable, for such matters had been voluntarily given up by the ancient lords ; but no objections appear to have been made, and probably it occurred to no one to make any.

The recent Act of 1925 abolished the last remnants of these old Courts, but Manors, quit rents, and tithes still remain as a reminder of the feudal past.

As the following subject is connected to some extent with the foregoing it seems proper to introduce it here.

"Priestlands" Place is the name of a small street in Lymington, and "Priestlands" gives its name to a mansion in the vicinity. Many persons have been curious as to the origin of this place-name, and have thought it referred to the benefice of the Church of St. Thomas in Lymington. This however is not so, and the following statement of facts, gleaned from documents in the Public Record Office, will clear up the matter and also throw an interesting light on by-gone days.

Until the dissolution of the Monastries by Henry VIII. "Priestlands," which comprised land in Lymington and Pennington (altogether 60 acres), formed an endowment for an ancient Chapel in Pennington, dedicated to St Mary Magdalen, which served that Parish as a Chapel-of-ease to the Mother Church of Milford, in which Parish Pennington (or Penyton) then was. The exact site of the Chapel is unknown, as after it had been sold, together with the Manor of Lymington, in 37 H. VIII., it was suffered to go to ruin, and was probably ploughed over some 300 years ago.

By chance, the land itself was overlooked by the Commissioners appointed under the Act of I Edward VI., but under a second Commission, issued in 16th Elizabeth. it was seized by the Crown. In the same year it was leased by the Crown to John Goodwin and Roger Rant for twenty-one years at a rental of 40/- per annum, the lease stating that "Priestlands ought to have come into our hands" by reason of the above Act; and, by a statement appearing in the Minister's accounts for following year, it was referred to as land "lately concealed and taken from the Queen's Majesty".

Many years afterwards Priestlands was taken possession of by Thomas Fox, William Lord, John Mawler, and Richard Oggedon, and they were sued by the Crown for possession in the Court of the Exchequer, Roger Rant, who was still living, being also sued for arrears of rent under his lease. It was pleaded in defence that the lands never belonged to the Chapel, but to the Manor of Pennington, and curiously enough, the Crown, owing probably to lack of evidence, allowed the defence, and decreed that Priestlands belonged to the Manor, and that Rant should be discharged from his alleged liability; this although the Crown had seized the land fifty years before (in 16 Eliz.) as ecclesiastical land. At that time the Manor of Pennington Nervet (then called variously, Nervett, Narrytt, or Marvitt, probably to distinguish from another Pennington) belonged to William Baconsawe, Esq., Sir George Philpot, and Edward Cheeke, and by Order they were confirmed in the possession of Priestlands as part of the Manor lands, though this appears to have been clearly wrong. It was stated that the predecessors of these owners had held the Manor since its creation; but this Manor is one of the oldest in England, and it seems very unlikely that its owners would have submitted to it being leased as forfeited ecclesiastical land, without protesting, for fifty years. The tithes which mainly supported the Chapel belonged to the Priory of Christchurch,

and were seized by the Crown on its dissolution. In 1557, instead of being allocated to ecclesiastical uses, they were sold to Ambrose and Henry Smith who sold them to various lay owners. In 1683 they belonged to Paul Burrard and Richard Good who bought them from William Fulham and his wife for £160. They were afterwards purchased by successive purchasers of the Manor of Pennington, and now belong to Keppel Pulteney, Esq., who reserved them when he sold the Manor to the Keyhaven Syndicate.

This Manor of Pennington was sold in 1385 (the first record we have of it) by three Priests, John Wymeswold, William Payne, and John Carse (probably of Christchurch Priory) to Sir John de la Hate and Margaret, his wife (daughter of Sir John Philpot) for £200.

The sale included other property. After that the recorded transactions are as follows :—

- 1485. Sold by John Boyle and wife to Richard Burton for 200 marks of silver. In the fine for the sale the Manor is called " Pennington Nyrwytte."
- 1487. Sold to Agnes Burton, widow and others for £200.
- 1546. Edward Brown and Henry Crede were then owners and sold a moiety of the Manor to George Crede with other properties including 86 Salterns.
- 1558. George Crede and wife sold a moiety to John Martyn.
- 1560. John Nethway sold the other moiety to John Martyn with other property including the Salterns.
- 1587. The Philpot family then possessed the Manor.
- 1599. Edward Cheeke then held the Manor which he sold to William Ogland.
- 1602. William Baconsawe, who then held the property, sold it to Sir Benjamin Tichborn and Richard Harley.

1607. The Philpot family (again in possession) sold it to Lord Arundel whose family held it for 173 years until 1780, after which it passed to one Drummond.
1780. Drummond (mortgagee) sold the Manor to Dr. Tomline, Bishop of Lincoln.

After this the Manor passed to the same successive owners as have already been mentioned as holding the Manor of Lymington.

From the above facts one may glean others of a more general interest. It appears that there was free dealing in English Manors from a very early period, and it follows that feudal rights over the person, which, in France, existed until the end of the 18th century, were abolished very early in England. This may partly account for the de Redvers family bestowing their charters. It would also appear that English Judges, even in the time of Elizabeth, were not afraid to administer justice, even at the expense of the Crown. From the number of salterns which existed in Pennington as well as Lymington, and from the fact that there were salterns east of Lymington before the Conquest, it would appear as if almost the whole coast in the vicinity was a salt making district.

CHAPTER V.

THE RIVER AND PORT.

“Customs of the most vexatious kind” (Buckle).

The subject of this chapter, as Lymington's chief asset, the source of its past, and perhaps of its future, prosperity, calls for separate treatment.

The river or estuary was, as has been seen, called by the Romans the River Alainus, and this name was, like the present name of the “Lymington River,” applicable to it as far as it was navigable, i.e., for some considerable way past Ampress, where there are the remains of river forts.

This navigable part of the river was, in olden days, considerably wider, deeper, and longer than it is now, and was kept clear by the strong double tides which still rise and fall as far as the bridge. Beyond the navigable portion the river narrows into what is now an inconsiderable stream called the “Boldre,” or full river, a name which at one time was, no doubt, appropriate.

The port also was much more important at one time than it is now. In the time of Edward I. it was a great port of entry for French wines and other commodities; and a record of 20 Edward III. amongst the Harleian M.S.S. (No. 240, p. 16) states that Lymington furnished for the defence of the coast 9 ships and 159 Mariners. A statement has often been made that Lymington supplied more ships than Southampton in the time of the Armada. This may or may not be true; but there is authority for saying that Lymington, in olden days, supplied more ships for the defence of the realm than Portsmouth.

In the time of the de Redvers, the Earls, as Lords of the Manor, claimed the whole of the estuary, and exacted tolls and dues; and when they gave their Charters to the Burgesses, the right to the tolls and dues passed by express gift to them. This right has always been exercised, or struggled for, by the Burgesses, and they have always, by virtue of the Charters, and because the river was part of the Manor, claimed to be owners and conservators.

In later times Lords of Manors and other owners have had to contend with the claims of the Crown, and the position is well put in a circular letter by Mr. Henry Butterworth, dated 30th January, 1849, addressed to Mr. James Brown, the Town Clerk. He says "The Commissioners of H. M. Woods and Forests assert that by the Royal prerogative the ground and soil of every creek, port, and navigable river into which the sea ebbs and flows, and also the shore lying between high and low water mark, belong to Her Majesty. Such a claim has never been acted upon, and is still debateable ground."

Charles I., as will be seen later, arbitrarily acted as if all these lands were his; and looking round for ways in which to raise money, or to reward or pay debts without money passing, granted to Mr. Robert Pamplin and his two daughters (Mary and Margaret) "in consideration of a great debt and faithful service done," all the mudlands ("certain marish and ousey lands") on the coast of Hampshire. It will be seen later how harmful this act was to Lymington and its river.

So early as 1325, Southampton lodged a formal complaint with the Crown that whereas they had been granted all privileges as a port between Hurst and Langstone in aid of their fee farm, yet Lymington had taken custom from certain ships putting in there. Southampton obtained a pronouncement in its favour, but the complaint cropped up again and again. Thus in 1328, the town of Southampton

declared that Lymington had taken and carried away customs to the value of £600, and in 1331, two deputy "customers" were sent to look after Southampton's rights. It would seem that the struggle between the two towns became at last insufferable, and in 1334 the two towns entered into what should have been a binding arrangement by a deed (a Latin copy of which is in the Town Chest, and of which this is believed to be the first translation), the contents of which are as follows :—

"Grant from the Town and Community of Southampton to the Burgesses of Lemnynton of certain Privileges in the 7th year of the reign of King Edward III. after the Conquest."

Let all present and future know that we the Burgesses and Community of the Town of Southampton have given, granted, and by this our present Charter confirmed for ourselves and our successors to Walter Littlethane and Roger Gust, of New Lymington and to the Burgesses of the said Town and their successors all our customs with anchorage, keelage, and wharfage, and the water of the sea between Hurst and Calcheford with free entry and exit, and with all other profits pertaining to the Port of the town of New Lemnynton to have and to hold all the aforesaid our customs etc., in perpetuity on yearly payment to the said Burgesses and Community of the said Town of Southampton or their successors of £30 sterling on the feast of St. Michæl, Archangel, for all other profits and customs of the aforesaid water. And we the said Burgesses and Community of the Town of Southampton, and our successors aforesaid will guarantee, justify, and defend against all mortal men the beforementioned customs etc., to Walter, Roger, and the Burgesses of the Town and their successors for ever. In witness whereof we have appended the common seal of the

said Town to the present Charter in the presence of the following witnesses.

(Signed) RICHARD FORLT (?) Mayor, and others.

Given at Southampton on Friday the Feast of St. Cuthbert, in the seventh year of the reign of King Edward III. after the Conquest."

It is to be assumed, for there are no records to show, that this agreement was adhered to, and that there was peace for a time, but afterwards the agreement seems to have been ignored, or, very probably, the annual payment was not kept up.

In 1329, Geoffrey Scurley, William Curltrout, and 18 others were fined £200 for having unlawfully taken customs from 'La Johette' and "Le Portjoie." They were also charged with assault, but acquitted on this charge.

In 1432, a petition was presented by the Merchants of Lymington that ships put in there, but left the port because there were no customs offices there, to the detriment of the town. The result of this was that Southampton was required to furnish officers to collect the customs due on their staples.

On the 14th March, 1507 (time of Henry VII.) Robert Maller, Mayor of Lymington, John Rogers, Merchant, Robert Tanner, Tanner and Merchant, and Robert Quyck, Weaver, of New Lymington, entered into a bond with Robert Bisshop, Mayor of Southampton, for the payment of £20; probably an amount due in respect of customs. This document is with the Southampton archives, and is valuable as showing that Lymington with weavers, tanners, and merchants in its midst, was at that time a self-contained commercial town.

In 1508, the two towns entered into another agreement whereby the keelage, wharfage, and other duties should go to Lymington, and duties on certain goods, according to a

Schedule, should go to Southampton. The parties to this Agreement on behalf of Lymington were Sir Hugh Conway (for the Lord of the Manor), Robert Maller (Mayor), and Richard Kent (Bailiff).

Again, on the 20th January, 1533 (Henry VIII.) an Indenture of Agreement was entered into between the two towns, for the settlement of differences between them. This document is with the Southampton archives.

In 1575, it was ordered that no person should dredge for oysters without leave of the Mayor, and a fine was imposed upon all persons casting ballast into the river.

On the 16th July, 1617, an information was lodged by Hugh Darvall with the Mayor of Southampton, giving intelligence that twelve sacks of wool had been landed at the Quay at Lymington "in order that (with the connivance and aid of Mr. Asshe and others of the chief wool-merchants of Southampton) they may be laden and carried away by wayne in the afternoon to the loss and injury of the town of Southampton in respect to customs." This information is now with the Southampton M.S.S. There is no doubt, this was by no means an isolated occurrence, and attempts to cheat the Revenue were frequent. Smugglers were common, and even acts of piracy were sometimes committed by the sea-farers of Lymington.

In 1676, it was ordered that five posts should be set up on the west side of the Haven within "the Basket" for the convenience of mooring vessels, 12d. to be paid for each vessel.

In 1700, an order was made prohibiting dragging for oysters.

In 1707, a Court of Admiralty was, at the request of the Corporation of Southampton, held in a booth set up on Lymington Quay, to consider outstanding disputes, and in 1708

a similar Court was held. It is also recorded in a river report that Courts were held in 1714 and 1727. On these occasions the silver oar of Southampton was erected as a token of dominance; but a salvo for the rights of Lymington was fired. As a result of these deliberations, Lymington appears to have had the best of it with regard to petty customs; and, as to duties on foreign goods, a branch custom house was afterwards set up at Lymington, which saved the great inconvenience which Lymington was put to from the fact that ships with cargoes for Lymington had first to go to Southampton to pay duties, and then return to Lymington. On the occasions when these Admiralty Courts were held there was always a formal ceremonial prelude. The Mayor of Southampton courteously asked leave from the Burgesses to hold the Courts. Thus in August, 1717, John Knapton, the Southampton Town Clerk, brought a message from Arthur Atherly, the Mayor, asking leave to put up a booth on the Quay, and for leave to carry the silver oar of Southampton upright through the town. In 1756, they asked, in addition, for leave to have their trumpeter go before them. On this occasion, in asking leave, George West, the Southampton Mayor, made the ceremony more agreeable by inviting the Mayor of Lymington to dine with him at the "Angel" at 2 p.m.

In 1711, the fishing in the river from the Quay to Ampress Dock was let out.

In the year 1725, there must have been some excitement in the town with regard to the conduct of one Roger Beer, a Burgess of the Borough and a merchant in a large way of business. From an account in a "brief" (a) in the case of "Rex v. Beer," a Latin copy of which is in the Town Chest, and a translation of which has now been made, it appears as follows:—This Roger Beer entered 5000 qrs. of wheat in the

(a) Really a kind of affidavit certifying the facts.

books of the Customs House in his own name (so that as a free Burgess he would not have to pay dues), "as if it had been his own grain and did conceal the same," and exported it on ships from the Quay to John Thomeur to whom it really belonged, and for whom he had bought it on commission. He debited the said John Thomeur with the "tax and customs due, and payable to the corporation," as if they had been paid, and in due course received the amount of the same from Thomeur, which he never accounted for, but "kept to his own use." In consequence of this the action was brought, and this particular document tells how Beer admitted his offence to the Court, and was then and there censured and deprived of his place or office of Burgess, besides having to pay the dues and costs.

In 1726, a trial came on at the Guildhall before the Lord Chief Justice Raymond, in an action between Southampton and Lymington respecting petty customs. At that time the following writings were lodged in the hands of Mr. William Samber, of Lyon's Inn, an Attorney, by Mr. Paul Burrard and never returned:—

1. The Charter of Edward Courtenay. (A grant of fairs, market and the Quay.)
2. A confirmation of that Grant.
3. The Grant from Southampton dated 1334.

At the trial the Mayor of "Southton" also produced the Agreement of 1508. The result of the trial was in favour of Southampton, and soon afterwards (1730) Lymington petitioned to be made a member of the Port of Southampton. It was as a result of this that the Government established a branch Custom House at Lymington, subordinate to Southampton. In the same year Lymington petitioned to be made a separate port but nothing came of it.

In 1731, one Captain William Cross, who had acquired an interest under the before-mentioned grant to Robert Pamplin,

on the strength of his title thereunder, began to dig the common, and lay the foundations for a bridge or dam, which he subsequently built. This was the subject of a presentment at the Court-leet (in respect of the common), and the Corporation, seeing what the evil effect of it would be on the tidal river, ordered a case to be stated for counsel's opinion. It is assumed that that opinion was favourable to the Corporation, as they brought an action for trespass against Captain Cross. The action was, however, lost, and the bridge remains to this day. A Mr. Charles Colborne was retained by the Corporation as their Counsel in this action, and afterwards came to reside at Lymington. He was a great character, being fond of bull-baiting and carousals (perhaps in these days we should call him a sportsman); and used to drive a carriage with four black mares. From this, and his entertaining the populace with ale and bull-baitings, he came to be known as "King Colborne." He was buried at Lymington, and a bust of him in the Church shows him as a big portly man. The dam built by Captain Cross was the cause of much mischief to the port, as the tidal flow above was stopped, and in consequence much mud accumulated, and, as time went on, matters continually got worse.

In 1756, a Court of Admiralty was held by Southampton on the Quay. As on previous occasions, their silver oar was paraded and a formal reservation of Lymington's rights made.

On the 16th April, 1816, the rates for wharfage and river dues were revised, and seem very moderate. These Quay and river dues were frequently let out to persons sending in the highest tender. There are several printed posters extant relating to this custom. One, in 1866, offers to let the right of laying down oysters at the same time. All, or nearly all, the agreements respecting oysters, reserve the privilege to the Burgesses of buying oysters at 4d. a dozen. A Mr. Head, who was lessee in 1850, seems to have been hard put to it to defend

his oysters from the fishermen. In 1727, the oyster fishing was leased to Messrs. Northover and Ellis, with a similar reservation as to the Burgesses' rights to buy oysters at the above cheap rate.

In the time of Lymington's commercial prosperity, when the notoriety of the port as a place for ship building, chartering ships, and general export and import trade, was great, the river-side bristled with docks and quays; but the remaining vestiges of them, have to be searched for at low tide under expert guidance.

On the 18th January, 1848, in pursuance of a requirement of the Admiralty, the River Committee of the Town Council made the following report as to the character and state of the river:—

“From “Jack-in-the-Basket” to the Quays is about 2 and one-third miles. From there to the Spit on the opposite side of the mouth is about 200 yards. The river, about half a mile up, is about 150 yards wide, and continues nearly the same width on to Short Reach, about half a mile further. The depth of water, so far, is from 14 to 18 feet at low water, with good anchorage, and is much used as a harbour of safety in bad weather by windborne vessels. There are frequently 60 or 70 there. Through Horn Reach the water is about 15 feet, and from thence to King's Post, the width is from 30 to 40 yards wide with about 12 feet of water, except on the bar, where there is only about 5 feet. From King's Post to Inman's shipyard about 20 yards wide and 12 feet of water. From this point to the north of the Town Quay there is not more than 5 feet of water, and the width of the river about 20 yards. The mud on each side of the river is of great extent, and is overflowed at three-quarters tide. The rise of the tide is about 10 feet. There are four wharves, one belonging to the Corporation, and three to private persons, and to the south is Messrs. Inman's Shipwright's Yard. The

condition of the river, as compared with what it was twenty years ago, is considerably deteriorated. The mud has accumulated on each side in that period from 15 to 20 feet. The depth of water generally is nearly the same, except where bars have formed on different parts of the river where there were none formerly (although the original bar just below King's Post is scarcely altered), particularly from the north end of the Town Quay to the north end of Inman's Ship-building Yard. Vessels of 10 feet draught could lay afloat off the Quays 40 years ago, where at Spring tides there is now only about 5 feet of water. To the north of the town is a causeway with a bridge which has been in very bad repair for 6 or 8 years. The gates are destroyed, and the water has washed the earth and stone from under the apron and wings of the bridge. The Proprietors have caused hundreds of tons of stone, chalk, clay etc., to be thrown into the wings, all of which has been carried down and deposited in different parts of the river. The rush of water through the bridge at the ebb since the removal of the gates has washed the mud and earth from the side of the river above the Quay, which is all carried down with that from the bridge."

(In the year 1927, as their Steamers scraped the mud bottom, the Southern Railway spent many thousands of pounds in dredging. The result, however, was not nearly so satisfactory as it should have been.)

The Report continues to state that the sluice gates of the dam had been neglected, and no sufficient attention paid to the tides. "The causeway is private property, and the corporate body have not exercised the right of control if such exists." "Owing to the port being subordinate to that of Southampton, vessels from foreign parts cannot unload here. The trade, therefore, is confined to the home or coasting trade." Exports consist of "salt, bricks, local timber and cheese from the Southern Counties. Imports were coal from

the north and Wales, and oats, bacon and butter from Ireland." The fact is recalled that in the reign of Edward I., French wines and other commodities were shipped from France; but subsequently the town of Southampton acquired the right, to the exclusion of Lymington from this trade.

At the time this Report was made, the trade in salt had almost disappeared, and most of the shipping trade had also. For many years after there continued to be a coastal and lumber trade, but of late years the custom house officers and coastguards have been withdrawn, and the river, which was once so busy with commerce, is now a favourite and prosperous yachting centre.

It is interesting to note that the Government in modern times has recognised that the tidal flow now stops at the Causeway or bridge, and have thus marked it in their maps. The claim to the bridge by the successors in title to Captain Cross (the present owner being the Southern Railway,) is also recognised. With regard, however, to the rest of the foreshore of the river covered at high tide, and granted, as has been related, to Robert Pamplin, through whom Captain Cross derived his claim, the rights of him and his successors seem, in later times, to have been ignored; for the Crown now asserts its rights to the foreshore, and despite the letter written by Mr. Henry Butterworth, neither the Corporation nor the Lord of the Manor have seen fit to contest them. For many years past, indeed, the Corporation has leased the foreshore from the Crown, and the Lords of the Manor, though it is believed they still claim certain rights, have taken no legal steps to assert them, so far as the writer is aware. The rights of the Crown have now been actively exercised for so many years that apparently it would be hopeless to deny them. The Crown, therefore, is the owner in effect, of all the muddy foreshore which is uncovered at low tide, with the exception of various portions of it, and of the various rights noted below,

which, as they are extracted from a Crown document, may be taken to be authoratively stated here. These exceptions are set out below.

4th October, 1860. License to Lymington Railway Company to extend pier.

13th March, 1873. Conveyance of a small portion to the Lymington Railway for a jetty.

14th July, 1873. License to Captain E. Wilson to place poles on part of foreshore.

1st April, 1880. License to A. J. Gann to build a jetty.

2nd April, 1881. License to Colonel Ouvry to build a landing stage or jetty next his property.

9th March, 1883. Conveyance to the L. & S.W.R. of a portion for an embankment and pier.

14th July, 1893. License to L. & S.W.R. to erect a fence.

6th October, 1903. License to the Admiralty to build a slipway.

30th September, 1904. Lease to the Corporation of mudland for the pillars and supports of a landing stage.

10th June, 1910. Lease to Mew Langton & Co., of a part of the foreshore to be occupied, and enclosed by a quay wall and wharf.

29th May, 1925. Permission to the Lymington River Sailing Club to place a boat, a white post, and a buoy at the mouth of the river.

18th August, 1927. Lease to the Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society, Ltd., of part of the foreshore and bed of the river for the purpose of a jetty.

In addition to the above, Captain Grant-Dalton has the right to make two channels through the mud adjacent to his property at Walhampton. There is also a considerable expanse of mud on the east side of the river about midway down over

which the Crown recognises other rights. Miss A. J. Ouvry has also the right to remove shore material within 20 yards of her property, to repair her seawall at the Salterns.

In the beginning of 1928, the Corporation were granted a lease for 21 years (renewal) of the whole of the foreshore within the Borough of Lymington, and part of the Parish of Boldre, with the exception of the above rights, and with the exception also of the rights of Messrs. May and the Trustees of the Will of the late W. J. Lamb, who have an uncontested claim to the foreshore adjacent to the ship-yard. It should be observed that the Crown do not admit any of the above rights, but simply except them from their leases.

In 1864 an Act was passed entitled "An Act for incorporating the Lymington Harbour and Docks Company, and authorising them to make and maintain the Lymington Harbour and Docks, and a railway and other works in connection therewith; and for other purposes." The promoters of the Company were Captain Hamilton, R.N., W. I. Hare, C. H. Ebdon, Captain R. W. Pelly, R.N., W. E. Rendle (Directors) The Hon. G. C. Talbot, M. Mason, Captain Towsey, R.N., G. T. St. Barbe, F. W. St. Barbe, R. Sharp, A. Mew, R. King, I. B. Purchase, J. Corbin, G. Inman, J. Heywood, John Clark, G. Bennett, Richard Gibbs, J. Mitchell, and H. Stephens; all influential local men. The capital was to be £200,000 in 20,000 shares of £10 each, and they were to exercise their powers within five years; otherwise they were to lapse. They were empowered to acquire land compulsorily (except the land of Sir George Burrard—here we see the parliamentary interest of the Burrards at work) to make a harbour, docks, railways, and all necessary adjuncts; to acquire the bridge, and all mudlands from Pennington Lake to the bridge; to own the port, appoint a Harbour Master, and to levy dues according to a specified scale. Elaborate plans were prepared and deposited, and a large sum, by way of forfeit; deposited with

the Court of Chancery. The site of the proposed Harbour was the mudland bounded on the east by the river, on the south by the Solent, on the west by Pennington Lake or Creek, and on the north by lands of Inman, Beckley, Dixon, Pulteney, Mitchell and St. Barbe, in fact the whole of the river, and river mouth, so far as it was navigable or, could be made so. Undoubtedly, the object and hope of the promoters was to raise the town to that commercial importance which its position on the coast was supposed to render attainable. Undoubtedly, also, there was a very large area of mudland, covered at flood tide which was reclaimable, and if the soft mud were dredged out (an enormous task) the estuary or river would make a very fine and convenient port. The chief owners, Mr. G. Inman and Mr. T. Beckton's executors, who were among the promoters, also saw in prospect an enormous increase in the value of their lands. It was an excellent project, but unattainable, as only local interests were concerned, and the project was adverse to outside vested interests. The money was never raised, and nothing was ever done. Still the promoters hung on, and procured successive Acts of Parliament in 1869, 1872, and 1875, extending their time limit to 1878; by which time they had abandoned all hopes, and the promoters' powers lapsed at the end of the time limit.

It is worth noting that the Crown took advantage of the above Act to make it clear that (irrespective of the powers given therein) they claimed not only the foreshore, but the whole of the bed of the river.

Many years afterwards, viz, in 1913, the Keyhaven Syndicate, Limited, formed a Company, and spent many thousands of pounds in purchasing land in Pennington with much the same objects, except that their port was to be somewhat further to the west at Keyhaven. This project also failed.

CHAPTER VI.

PLACES OF WORSHIP.

"For religion we were highly favoured above all nations."
 ("Characteristics," Shaftesbury.)

Of all places of worship in Lymington, the Parish Church of St. Thomas is, naturally, the most interesting. It cannot claim to be of equal antiquity to the Churches at Milford and Brockenhurst, which are mentioned in Domesday Book, or to the Church at Boldre, which was built about 1080 A.D., but even the present building can boast the very mature age of almost exactly 700 years. There was, moreover, an earlier Church, or rather Chapel, built by the first Baldwin de Redvers, the site of which has long been in doubt and was supposed to be elsewhere, but recent discoveries (1927), particularly of a well preserved stone staircase distinctly belonging to an earlier era, seem to indicate that this earlier Church was built on the same site as the present one, and enclosed by it, or built over. If this is the case, it is probable that the Chapel at Lymington was built not long after the Church of Boldre by the first Baldwin de Redvers. His descendant, Baldwin, in his Charter dated 1141-55 A.D., granted to Christchurch the Church of Boldre with the Chapels of Brockenhurst and Lymington, (a) so clearly the Lymington Chapel existed long before this date; but the present structure was built about 1230 (b). In his Charter 1251 (translated elsewhere), in which he gives "Theolonius" (Barfields) to the town, de Redvers speaks of this land as being "north of the Church at Lymington," which indicates

(a) "Victoria History," *ex* Dugdale.

(b) Mr. E. Hapgood considers it not improbable that it might have been 20 years or so before the date (1250) given in his "The Church in Lymington."

either that the Church had been erected some time before, or that he was speaking of an earlier Church on the same site of which the above discoveries are probably the relics. The chancel end, and the north transept, and this stone staircase, is all that remains of the original Church or Churches.

For many years the Church was assumed to be named after St. Thomas of Canterbury; but the discovery of four pre-Reformation Wills, styling it the Church of St. Thomas the Apostle, should set all doubts at rest as to its real name, although some connections of the Courtenay family favour the name of St. Thomas of Hereford, their tutelary Saint.

The Church was not only, as appears by three separate Charters, granted to the Church of Christ at Twynham (Christchurch), but was also in the ecclesiastical hundred of Christchurch, and was served for centuries by the Priory there which also had the rectory. A curious relic of this fact remains in the road from Portmore to Boldre, which is still called "Hundred Lane," and which is supposed to mark the old boundary dividing the hundred of Christchurch from Boldre parish. The Coroner's district also is still known at the present day as "the hundred of Christchurch." John Nappe and John Bourne, whose names appear in the title deeds of *Dameroseyhay* or *Holmes Mead*, were both Chaplains, from Christchurch (the former in 1397), and it is from the gift of the latter that that meadow was presented to Lyminster. It was evidently a meadow which, at one time, was bestowed upon the Church at Christchurch (probably by Holmes), and regranted by that Church, through their Chaplain to Lyminster.

Further facts show that the rights of Christchurch over Lyminster's Church became curiously and inextricably mingled with the rights and claims of Bristol and Boldre, as may be seen from what follows.

On the 10th June, 1542 (34 Henry VIII.) the rectory was taken away from Christchurch and granted to the Bishop of Bristol, as part of his endowment, the grant including "the advowson of the vicarage and the Church of Lymington." In 1586, the Rev. Robert Jackson, Vicar of Boldre, however, claimed the Lymington tithes (a) asserting that they had been presented to the Vicarage of Boldre by the Prior of Christchurch, and that the parishes of Lymington and Brockenhurst had been annexed to Boldre for three hundred years (b). His claim does not appear to have been ill-founded, for though there may never have been such an annexation, it has been stated that "the right of presenting a Chaplain to the chapel probably belonged to the Vicar of Boldre from the first," (c).

It is certain that at the close of the 16th Century it was still the custom of the churchwardens and inhabitants of Lymington to go to Boldre on Midsummer Day and render a wax taper and 3/- to the churchwardens there in consideration of a dinner for the two priests, clerks and choristers (d). "The tithes were also paid to the Vicar (e), who appears to have paid the salary of the Chaplain, though the amount does not appear." In spite, however, of the foregoing, the Rev. Robert Jackson's claim was successfully resisted.

In 1595, owing to the lack of ministerial supervision, an appeal was made to the Crown in the time of Queen Elizabeth, and she appointed Henry Bowker "to the Rectory or Parish Church of Lymington." In Cromwell's time (1657) an Order was made, on the petition of the Mayor and Burgesses, that the

(a) Apparently the great tithes.

(b) A critic has, however, pointed out that de Redvers granted to Christchurch the Church at Boldre with the Chapel of Lymington. If (he says) the chapel had been annexed to Boldre the grant would have been with its chapel etc.

(c) *Ex* "Victoria History."

(d) *Ibid.* Exchequer Dep. East, 29. Eliz. No. 1—East 40. Eliz. No. 26.

(e) These must have been the small tithes as the large tithes were paid to Bristol.

trustees for the maintenance of ministers should allow the Minister of Lymington an augmentation of £50.

On the Restoration the Rectory reverted to the Bishop of Bristol. It remained in the possession of Bristol until 1857, when it was transferred (saving the right of patronage) to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners under 3 and 4 Vic. c. 113, and 4 and 5 Vic. c. 39. On the 7th October, 1869, an Order in Council was signed declaring the Chapelry of Lymington independent of the Vicarage of Boldre, and decreeing that the right of patronage should vest in the Bishop of Winchester. Previous to this the practice had been for the Vicar of Boldre to nominate a Curate, and for the parishioners to present, (α) but on the other hand it is a well remembered fact that prior to 1852 (how long before is not known) the parishioners had the right of electing their own minister, though possibly with the consent of the Vicar of Boldre. In a memorial presented to the Government by the Mayor and Burgesses on April 15th, 1831, when there was some fear that one of the parliamentary seats appertaining to the Borough might be taken away, and it was desirable to show that the population of Boldre parish should be added to that of Lymington to make out their case, it was stated that the Chapelry of Lymington was "a Chapel of Ease to the mother Church and parish of Boldre; that the Vicar of Boldre appoints the curate of Lymington, and receives the small tithes of both parts of the parish, and at pleasure discharges the duties of each Church, both being under his immediate jurisdiction." It is obvious that it was in the interest of the Patrons of the Borough (the Burrards) to make the most of their case; but there is no reason to doubt the facts stated, as it might have become a Chapel of Ease to Boldre after the Reformation. Moreover, at this time both the Rev. William Gilpin, Vicar of Boldre, and the Rev. Richard Warner, his curate (the no less celebrated writer and

(α) Vic. His. and "Handbook of Lymington."

antiquary) were both Burgesses of Lymington, which seems to show that they had some kind of authority over or interest in the Church at Lymington, although it is true that only nomination by the Mayor was necessary to get the Burgess-ship. From the above it will be seen that the claims of Christchurch, Bristol, Lymington and Boldre over Lymington Church were at times very much involved.

The first known incumbent of the Church was William Ekerden, in 1396, after whom came the John Nappe already referred to, and after him, with one or two gaps, the list of incumbents is complete. It is interesting to note that at one time Henry Francis Lyte, the author of the hymns "Abide with Me" and "Pleasant are Thy Courts Above," held the curacy there, and wrote many of his works at Lymington. (a). A statement has been circulated that Cardinal Wolsley was a curate there. Curiously enough he was a curate at Lymington, but this was another town of that name.

About 1325, (b) a Mortuary Chapel was erected by the Courtenays in the N.E. corner; and, under a large grey slab there, some of that family are buried. Other members of the family are buried at Christchurch and Braemore. Subsequent additions were made, but the dates do not seem to be known. In 1670, the South transept was pulled down and the present tower erected on its site. The date is on the tower. The clock in the Church tower was set up in 1674, but another clock was purchased in 1835. In 1671 bells were cast and a peal of 6 bells was completed in 1684, the tenor weighing over 13 cwt. In 1756, the Church was enlarged at the North side of the Nave by about 93 feet in length and 23 feet in width. In 1780, the small existing gallery was enlarged and extended. In 1791, the North gallery was enlarged. In July, 1792, a

(a) Dic. Nat. Biog.

(b) Most of the following facts are taken from Messrs. Bostock and Hapgood's Book "The Church in Lymington."

new vestry room was built. The date of the erection of the cupola is not known; but it was restored in 1871. In 1873, the three-decker pulpit and reading desk was removed. Up to 1831 the musical part of the service was sustained by a small orchestra, including a bassoon and double bass; but in that year a fine organ was installed, the opening ceremony including a grand Oratorio, Mr. P. Klitz, the organist, presiding. In 1911 there was a general restoration of the Church, rendered possible by a legacy of £1,000 from Mrs. Earley, and many curious old bosses from the roof (some still on view) were removed. The organ was enlarged and restored, having then 93 stops and 1816 speaking pipes with new action and an electric motor.

Members of the Klitz family were organists from 1831 to 1887, when Mr. H. E. Frecknall was appointed, followed by Mr. H. Wakeford in 1909. Well-known inhabitants who have memorial tablets in the Church are the wife of Francis Guidott, 9 times Mayor of Lymington during the period 1632—1662 (*ob.* 1668), John Burrard (*ob.* 1698), Sir Harry Burrard Neale (*ob.* 1840), Charles Colborne (*ob.* 1747) Sir Matthew Blakiston (*ob.* 1806), B. Maturin (*ob.* 1905).

The registers of the Church commence from 1658. The present Vicarage was purchased in 1871 by subscriptions and grants. The tithes of Lymington were commuted in 1840, the vicarial for £80 7s. 10d., and the rectorial for £276 14s. 4d.

Mention of the tithes leads one to note the fact that Lymington possessed an exceptionally interesting tithe barn, the lower portion of the walls being stone-work of very ancient erection, probably before the Conquest. The author of "Prehistoric Lymington," who measured it, says it was 66 feet long by about 24 feet wide, the rafters, purlines, and beams being of oak. He thinks it may originally have been

used as the first Christian Church in Lymington, (though this has been doubted), and it stood near the site of itself an ancient barrow and many graves, the site being sacred Pagan ground. In 1926, this tithe barn was unaccountably pulled down by order of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. Ninety tons of stone were taken out, some of which was used for the restoration of the Courtenay Chapel in 1927, and the rest dispersed to many places. (a).

Prior to 1821, the Churchyard of Lymington Church extended to the centre of the High Street; but in that year Sir Harry Burrard Neale presented the Churchwardens with three-quarters of an acre of fresh ground to the North (part of Barfields) for a cemetery, when the roadway was widened and the old Churchyard cut back. The pathway was also widened and rounded off when the War Memorial was erected in front of the Church after the Great War.

The Charities are small and not numerous. One of them was a gift in 1668 by George Fulford of £326 for a grammar school, which is referred to elsewhere. In 1725, Sir Peter Mews left £2,000 for a Curate's fund to be divided amongst four parishes. Lymington's share of this fund (in the hands of the Accountant General) is about £13 per annum. Other charities for educational purposes are now applied to the use of the C. of E. School Managers and in relief of the educational rate. Rear-Admiral Thomas Rogers, in 1814, left a bequest of £1,000 for the relief of the poor. This is now declared to be a parochial charity, and is administered by the Vicar and two trustees appointed by the Town Council. The greatest bequest for ecclesiastical purposes was one of about £18,000 made in 1908 by Miss Harriet Spike and Mrs. Fanny Haldane, of Holme Mead, Lymington, from which a new Church ("All Saints'") and Hall has been built and endowed. Mrs. Martha Earley in 1910,

(a) Comm. by Mr. Burley.

left £1,000 for the repair of the Church and other money for the erection of a cemetery Chapel, besides leaving her two houses, 117 and 118, High Street, to the Town for Municipal Offices. In 1868, Thomas Rogers, Commander R.N., bequeathed a sum of £2,100, which he directed should be called How's Charity, for clothing for the poor. This is now administered by the Charity Commissioners, the annual amount receivable being about £52 per annum, which is annually distributed by the Vicar and Churchwardens in tickets for blankets and clothing of the value of £1, and in other charges, on the 21st October in each year.

A very old charity is that of Mr. Thomas Brown, who on the 4th February, 1667, bequeathed a sum of money to be divided between several parishes to buy bread for the poor. In 1912 Lymington's share was £9 10s. This charity is administered by the Vicar and two trustees appointed by the Town Council. The latest charity is a sum of £250 bequeathed by Mrs. Sarah Mursell on the 24th February, 1919, to the Vicar and Churchwardens of Lymington and known as Mursell's Charity. The income is applied in the purchase of coal at Christmas.

The most recent important ecclesiastical occurrences in Lymington, are the sale of the Church House, acquired in 1907, and the building of a large and commodious Parish Hall on land at the West end of Emsworth Road, with the proceeds, aided by subscriptions, etc., at a cost of about £3,600. The building was completed in 1926. In the following year the Vicar presented the greater part of the ground adjoining the Parish Hall to the Corporation for a children's playground. On the 22nd June, 1927, the Courtenay Mortuary Chapel in the Church, which had previous to 1792 been railed in, was beautifully restored, and the restored Chapel re-dedicated by the Bishop of Winchester, in

the presence of the Mayor and Corporation and a crowded congregation.

In this connection something should be said about the Church Schools, as these were, at first, purely ecclesiastical. The schools for boys and girls in New Street were created in 1836, Mrs. Ann St. Barbe having provided the land, the schools being erected by voluntary subscriptions. In 1870 the schools were vested in "The Official Trustee of Charity Lands," under the provision of the Endowed Schools Act, 1869. The Infants' School was founded in 1859, in Ashley Lane. This was sold in 1888, and the building occupied by the "Foresters," when a new Infants' School was erected in New Street opposite the Boys' and Girls' Schools, and also vested in the Official Trustee. The Schools were enlarged in 1887. The Managers are responsible for the maintainance of the fabric, all other expenses being now defrayed from public funds. The title of the School was changed in 1909 from the "National School" to "The Church of England School."

It is interesting to observe that in olden days and up to quite recent times, the Churchwardens (besides their statutory and other powers), seem to have exercised what we should now regard as magisterial duties. Thus in the extracts from the Churchwardens accounts published in "The Church in Lymington," there is an entry (1697) "Paid George Clarke for whipping a vagabond 1/-." In 1699, they paid Thomas Warde for "mending the stocks," which one would have thought the Mayor should have done. In 1746, they paid the town crier to cry against cock skailing (a) and stealing hedgewood, and in 1766 they paid him for forbidding "shaving on the Sabbath." Another curious entry is under the date 1693, when at a general meeting of the parish it was ordered that all persons who should refuse to pay their tithes should be sued "to excommunication."

(a) A sport (?) wherein the cock was buried up to its neck, becoming then a target for stones.

In the time of Cromwell, Presbyterians, Baptists, Independents and others were classed as Anabaptists and Puritans. Lymington was then strongly Puritan; so much so that when the Commissioners of Charles II. came there for the purpose of testing the loyalty of the Corporation, very few Burgesses attended, and Philip Dore, the Mayor, roundly refused to take the oath and was suspended. These Dores were ever since, it would appear, leaders of the dissenting community; and this is exemplified by the fact that in 1796 David Dore (who died in 1824), was senior deacon of the Baptist Church in Lymington. He was the depository of the history of the local Baptist Church, and it was through him that the statements of Mr. Benjamin Shepard, whose father had attended the meeting of the first pastor in Lymington in 1693, have reached the hands of an historian. From the history (a) thus compiled, it would seem that meetings were held by members of that Church in the early part of the 17th Century, long before there was a church building, in each other's houses, and probably in the fields. They were, it must be confessed, somewhat turbulent people, and it is recorded that in 1672 a Mr. Tutchin, a Baptist, together with a Mr. Hancock, had warrants issued against them for disturbance. Earlier than this a Thomas Collier (Baptist) preached at Lymington. The first regular pastor, however, was John Rumsey (1693), after whom (with occasional intervals) there was a regular succession of local ministers. In 1679 a Meeting House, 40 by 30 feet, was erected through the good offices of a Mr. Lillington, a member. In 1791, there was some bad feeling among the members, and seven of them opened another place of worship, and formed a second church in the town. Through the efforts of Mr. Mursell, Senior, the two Churches were united in 1797. From the "Victoria County History" we learn that the Chapel is endowed with a house in New

(a) History of the Baptist Church at Lymington. (Douglas).

Street, 5a. 1r. 6p. of meadow land, and a garden in Gosport Street, producing yearly £70 or thereabouts applicable under deeds of 1792 and 1878 towards the pastor's stipend and repairs. Also that in 1883 Robert Wheeler left £10,000 towards the support of the Minister and indigent members of the congregation.

Shortly after the building of the new church (viz. in 1835), the "National Schools" were built opposite, and we are told that, as many scholars were drawn away, this had the effect of closing the Baptist school. At this time the funds relating to Fulford's Charity, which had so long supported a school in the town, were turned over to the National Schools.

The Congregational Church in Lymington was established in 1700. The earliest record is, however, a trust deed dated 1719, which states "that a tenement the property of Ann Bulkeley lying and being in Old Lymington was then let or used as a Meeting House," the earliest Minister being the Rev. James Pearson. From 1726 to 1796 the Church was called Presbyterian or Independent, the two names being at that time synonymous. The Church was partially endowed with £12 from Glebe land and £20 from Turnpike bonds, the rest of the Minister's salary being made up from pew rents and subscriptions; but there are now various other trust funds applicable. One of the Ministers, the Rev. Robert Rice, in 1766 *et seq.*, was a character, it being said of him that he "could not preach himself and would let no one else preach," and often the pew-opener used to be sent round to say there would be no service as the Minister was poorly. For ten years there was no pastor, and it was stated that "the man was not born who would ever remain there three years." In 1820 it was said "the Church has a bad name; they have been falling out for years."

In 1847 the old Meeting House in St. Thomas Street (now Nos. 30 and 31, which still present the outward appearance of a chapel), was closed, and a new Church opened.

At that time the members were called the "Lymington Independent Dissenters." The new Church and schools and parsonage cost £4,500. (a.)

The Wesleyan Church (b) in Gosport Street was founded in the year 1859, and was originally part of the Newport Circuit (I. of W.) It seats about 150. It was probably built near the Railway Station from an idea (wisely conceived, but which has turned out to be erroneous) that that part of the town would grow quickly.

With regard to the Roman Catholic Church at Lymington, it was, for obvious reasons, of more recent date than the Protestant dissenting Churches (except the last named). Up to 1791, when, in spite of Lord George Gordon, or perhaps because of him, and of the riots named after him, the penal statutes were repealed, it was a subject for capital punishment merely to be a priest of that Church, and it was not until 1829 that Roman Catholics became totally emancipated. Consequently, though there were many members of that Church scattered about, and many priests compulsorily in hiding, it was only after the Act of 1791 that members of that Church ventured openly to put their religious beliefs into practice. In the year 1800 (c) a Jesuit Mission was established in Lymington by a French emigré priest, who came there to attend to the spiritual wants of his countrymen taken prisoners during the wars, as well as to those of his compatriots who had sought refuge in the old sea-port town at the time of the French Revolution. A chapel was opened at Pylewell House, then a minor residence of Thomas

(a) "History of the Congregational Church." (Cliffe).

(b) Communicated by the Rev. P. Woods.

(c) See "Miscellanea IX" published by the Catholic Record Society, (1914).

Weld, Esq., of Lulworth Castle, Dorset, and, after his death, of his third son Joseph, who lived there till 1828, when his eldest brother Thomas Cardinal Weld, handed over the Lulworth estates to him. On the death of Joseph, his son, William Joseph removed to the Lodge, Lymington, and died there in 1889, aged 74. After Pylewell was given up and finally sold, the Chapel was removed to the Lodge, till the present Church was built at Lymington from the designs of the brothers J. A. and C. F. Hansom, architects, and opened in 1859. Prior to this a temporary chapel had been erected on the site by Mr. Joseph Weld, who was the third son of the yacht owner mentioned in the 10th chapter. The registers of Pylewell House, and Rookcliff, Milford-on-Sea, are now in Somerset House, where they were sent by the Rev. William Waterton, S.J., on 13th October, 1840, who describes them as of Pylewell House, making no mention of Rookcliff House, although there were entries in the register used there.

For a short period there were Chapels at East End, Pylewell, and near Elm Cottage.

The following priests have officiated at Lymington since the first Mission was established :—

L'Abbé J. Blot (emigré) 1800—5.

Rev. John Allaway, S.J., 1805—7.

Rev. Thomas Tilbury. 1807—9.

L'Abbé J. B. F. Fautrel. 1809—15.

L'Abbé Jean Nerinckx.

Rev. John Brown. 1812—24.

Rev. John Leadbetter, S.J. 1824—26.

Rev. William Waterton, S.J. 1826—1841.

Rev. James Clough, S.J. 1841—4.

Rev. Francis Daniel, S.J. 1841—46.

At a temporary Chapel at East End, Pylewell.

Rev. William O'Brien, S.J. 1845—51.

At a Chapel in the brickfield near Elm Cottage, Walhampton.

Rev. Thomas Williams, S.J. 1851—2.

Rev. John Rigby, S.J. 1852—3.

Rev. Ralph Cooper, S.J. 1853—4.

Rev. John Milner, S.J. 1854—6.

At a Chapel at the Lodge, Walhampton.

Rev. John Milner. 1856—9.

At the new Church of "Our Lady of Mercy and St. Joseph".

Rev. John Milner. 18th May, 1859 (date of opening)
to 1860.

Rev. Joseph Holden, S.J. 1860—5.

Rev. John Mac Donald. 1865—8.

Rev. John Wallace, D.D. 1868—9.

Rev. Patrick O'Connell. 1869—1903.

(The Mission was then apportioned to the new diocese of Portsmouth, formed 19th May, 1882 by division of the old diocese of Southwark).

Rev. C. G. Winder. 1903—17.

Rev. John Murphy. 1917—22.

Rev. B. Morris. 1922—

The history of Lymington, during feudal times, having now been traced (with such additions as were necessary to bring the story of the institutions mentioned up to date), we now enter on another stage of this history, in which the family of the name of Burrard took a very active part during some 258 years. It is therefore necessary to give the account of this family, which appears in the next chapter.

CHAPTER VII.

THE BURRARDS AND THE POWLETTS.

"The House of Commons was composed of men not interested to protect the interests of the people." (Nichol's "Recollections.")

Two interesting books relating to the family of Burrard have been published in comparatively recent times; one is "The Annals of Walhampton" by Lieut.-Colonel Sidney Burrard, and the other is "The Families of Borard and Burrard" by Sir Sidney Burrard, K.C.S.I., F.R.S., published in India in 1892. It is from these books, the Town books, and various other sources that the contents of this chapter have been compiled. A peculiarity of "The Annals of Walhampton" is that it contains no annals of Walhampton, but is, in the main, a sketch of the struggles for the Parliamentary seats of Lymington, and says little or nothing about the preceding and subsequent family history of the Burrards. It was to make up for this deficiency that the second book, which shows evidence of very great industry in research, was written.

From this book we learn that the family ancestor was Guillaume de Bosc-Ruard, who was one of William the Conqueror's followers, and whose name, with the names of the others, is on the list graven in stone at Dives in Normandy. The Norman French of Bosc-Ruard became in French Bois-Ruard, the pronunciation of which easily lent itself to the corruption of Borard, which the Hampshire accent again corrupted to Burrard.

It would be foreign to our subject to attempt to follow the family charts which appear in Sir Sidney's book, or to

mention the many variants of the name which are given there. It must suffice to say that there was a Hampshire branch of this family whose first representative was John Borard appointed 19th Abbot of Christchurch in 1397. He died in 1422, and the inscription on his tomb in the Priory Church may still be seen. Amongst his possessions was the Manor of Walhampton, probably held in sub-infeudation from the Courtenays. There must have been other members of the family at Christchurch, for a John Borard was born there about 1425, who died in 1502, and was also buried in the Priory Church. This John Borard was the direct ancestor of the Lymington branch of the family, for his sons, Robert and John both settled in Lymington, and were buried in Lymington Churchyard in 1508 and 1542, respectively. John left three sons, Ralph, Edmund, and John. The eldest son Ralph died 1542, and left several daughters and one son named George. By this time the family had become a power in Lymington, and their names appear frequently as land-owners. In 1574, this George Burrard became Mayor of Lymington, and the family had acquired such a paramount authority in the Town that the name of Burrard was almost synonymous with that of Lymington, and from that time up to 1835 the Burrards and their friends fill the eye in the list of Mayors and their "reign" in Lymington commenced.

Walhampton Manor was not, however, purchased by them till 1668, when it was acquired from the Rev. William Gearing, Curate of Lymington, who was Mayor in 1660. The Buttons, Dore, Knaptons, Dummers, Bowles, and Harsnetts, all of whom figure as Mayors, were all connected by marriage with the Burrards, who always took care to nominate none but their friends or connections as Burgesses. This influence with the Burgesses enabled the Burrards to have the Borough "in their pockets," and we find that they and their friends appear repeatedly as M.P.s from 1679 to 1835, when their influence was lessened by the Reform Act of 1832 and the Municipal

Corporations Act of 1835, but not wholly destroyed until half a century later.

Previously to the passing of those Acts the Parliamentary Borough was dealt with (and even devised by Will) by the Burrard family, like any other property, and this was quite in accordance with law and custom, this being recognised even by the Commissioners who visited Lymington in 1832. In the "Annals" the Parliamentary representation of Lymington appears as a jealously guarded and much prized possession, and the occasional attempts of a rival family to wrest away this possession is a matter for surprised indignation and much polished, but bitter, correspondence.

It is characteristic of the family feeling when Colonel Sidney Burrard says: "Close Boroughs were of advantage to the State, inasmuch as men of high intellectual attainments were often enabled thereby to attain seats in the House of Commons." No doubt the Burrard family and other owners of close Boroughs resented the change effected by the Reform Act, and, at the time of the passing of the Act, this argument was used by many others.

In 1701, 1702, and 1703, Lord William Powlett was elected Mayor, a member of the family having first been made a Burgess in 1665. This is, therefore, a proper occasion to give some account of this great family of the Powletts, Pauletts, or Pawletts, as the names have at various times been spelt. The founder of the family was William Powlett, a very astute man who devoted himself to Court life, and, emulating the principles of the celebrated Vicar of Bray, rose to be Lord Treasurer, and was in great favour under the diverse reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth. He was the chief instrument in the downfall of Lady Jane Grey and in securing the Crown for Mary. He died in 1572, aged ninety-seven, leaving upwards of a hundred descendants, for

whom he appears to have been busy in obtaining State places. The heads of the family became Earls of Wiltshire, Marquises of Winchester, and Dukes of Bolton. One of them married into the Courtenay family, and one may assume that this helped to give them such an interest in the Borough.

How it was that the Burrards allowed the Powletts to encroach on their domain is explained in the "Annals." Colonel Burrard there says: "the Burrard family were not sufficiently prudent in admitting this powerful family into the Lymington Corporation; but as time passed on, and the Burrards had many adversaries round Lymington and were not strong enough to stand alone, they deemed it advisable about the year 1690 to place the Borough under the patronage of the Earl of Wiltshire (afterwards 2nd Duke of Bolton), and his family, upon the mutual understanding that the two families should honourably support one another."

Owing to this diplomatic understanding we see alternate governments of the Burrards and their friends and the Powletts and their friends, "friends" generally meaning those who had been created Burgesses by one side or the other.

Here, in order to keep in view the direct line of the heads of the family, it should be mentioned that George Burrard died in 1585, leaving three daughters and a son named Ralph, who died in 1599 leaving a numerous family the eldest of whom was Thomas. Thomas died in 1610 leaving two sons Thomas (*obit.* 1661), and George (*obit.* 1644). This Thomas left a large family including John and Paul, who were both M.P.s. As mentioned elsewhere, the Burrards, who always appear to have been very prudent, did not put themselves into Parliament until it was worth their while to do so, although they returned their connection, John Button, to the Long Parliament in 1640. The above-named Paul Burrard had a son named Paul who died in 1735. It was he

and his father who made the arrangement with the Powletts to share the family seats.

In 1705 the Marquis of Winchester was returned for Lymington on the death of Thomas Dore, and from that time till 1761 one of the seats for the Borough was held by the Powletts.

In after years these Powletts were not so grateful as Colonel Sidney Burrard considers they ought to have been: "Conflicts arose between the two families which finally resulted in complete victory for the Burrards," though in 1719 we see a Burrard and a Powlett standing together as joint members for Lymington. In the course of correspondence between the again united families, it is curious to read how Paul Burrard, reminds Lord William Powlett that "all the existing Burgesses, except one, were made by us," and "that we have been zealous ever since in keeping the interest in the same channel;" a close Corporation indeed!

In 1728 a romantic incident in the career of Charles, 3rd Duke of Bolton, is related in Chamber's "Book of Days." The Duke visited the performance of the "Beggar's Opera" on the 29th April in that year, and fell in love with Miss Lavinia Felton who took the part of "Polly," and, after some intimacies, eventually married her. This is the first instance in record of an actress marrying a peer. This Duke died in 1754, without leaving any (legitimate) issue.

In 1729, the quarrel between the two families broke out again. Mr. St. John, one of the candidates, applied to Paul Burrard, who was then M.P. for Yarmouth (I. of W.) asking for his support. Mr. Burrard, believing he was standing in the Powlett's interest, promised to give it, but as it turned out, the chief Powlett (Charles, 3rd Duke of Bolton) wished to support his cousin William Powlett, and wrote Mr. Burrard a very strong letter on the subject mentioning the "ties of

gratitude" which ought to bind Mr. Burrard. This called forth a studiously polite but reproachful letter from the latter. This Paul Burrard was at various times not only M.P. and Mayor, but Receiver-General of the Land Tax for Hants, Deputy-Lieutenant for the County, and one of the Rangers of the New Forest. Such offices were often held by the Burrards.

Further quarrels between Charles, Duke of Bolton, and Harry Burrard, eldest son of Paul, broke out in 1740. The occasion arose from the fact that Harry Burrard had consented to the Duke having a share in the Borough on Lord Lymington's promise to support the Burrard interest whenever the Duke should attempt to overturn it (such intrigues appear to have been frequent). John Wallop (Lord Lymington's son), was accordingly elected Mayor of Lymington in 1739. At the same time John How, one of the Burrard adherents, was asking for the Burrard's support which, however, Harry Burrard seemed inclined to give to Lord Lymington, who was then opposed to the Duke. A pretty little epistolary wrangle then arose on all sides, but How obtained the Mayoralty in 1740.

In 1745, there was a split in the Duke's party and in that of Harry Burrard. In consequence of an arrogant demand of the Duke to make a number of new Burgesses, none of whom were known to the Burrards, and perhaps not to members of the Duke's party, some members of the latter rebelled and joined Harry Burrard, and amongst these were Colonel Charles Powlett, John Dummer, and George Trenchard. (The reason their names are mentioned will appear later). The Duke's party still held a majority of two; so Harry Burrard conspired to have a number of his friends in readiness to be made Burgesses, so as to outnumber the other side. This was done. The Burrard party at once repealed the standing order limiting the number of Burgesses, and at the Hall held on the 11th September, Colonel Powlett,

who was in the Chair, after voting had taken place, declared the Burgesses nominated by Harry Burrard to be elected. The Duke, suspecting nothing of all this, wrote an innocent letter as to who was to be the new Mayor. To this Harry Burrard and Colonel Powlett wrote a joint reply announcing the revolution and its success, which, of course, very much enraged the choleric Duke. The day of election (Sunday, the 22nd September), then came on, and with the aid of the new Burgesses, Harry Burrard was elected Mayor. The Duke then issued writs of mandamus to declare the election illegal on account of a defect in the notice issued. Both parties then made their arrangements, a Mr. Gould (a) being retained, with three other counsel, for the Burrard party. On the receipt of the writs the Lord of the Manor, who was a friend of the Duke's, caused Thomas Missing, the Steward of the Court Leet, to refuse to swear Harry Burrard in, and, soon after, the High Court declared the election illegal. The other issues were decided in Harry Burrard's favour at Michaelmas Term 1746; and Harry Burrard writes "We withstood the Duke's attacks both at Lyminster and Westminster Hall, and carried our point and established our interest."

At the election of 1746, the Burrard party, by skilful manœuvring, managed to get Mr. Dummer (a cousin of the Burrards) elected Mayor by a majority of two. The Duke then lost his actions, and the sixteen new Burgesses nominated by the Burrard party were legally elected; after which the Mayoralty always remained in the Burrard's gift.

In 1927 a scrap of paper was found in the Town Chest which turned out to be a little diary of Harry Burrard's journeys to London, for the purpose of this litigation. Its existence does not seem to have been known, and if Colonel

(a) See the account of Mr. Burrard's journey to London to consult Mr. Gould which follows.

Burrard had known of it at the time he would certainly have put it in his "Annals." It is as follows:—

"Fryd, 30th August, 1745 (a) set out from London for Walhampton and arrived at Home on Wednesday, the 4th September, call by the way at Oakingham, Farleigh, Harsborne and Watcomb.

Fry, 6th September. Set out from Walhampton to Mr. Trenchard, on the 7th to Dorchester and to Mr. Bond's, and on the 9th Home again (b).

Tr. 12th September. (c). Set out for London, and lay that night at Mr. John Dummer's. 14th, arrived in Town.

Wednesday, 18th September. Set out from London, arrived at Walhampton on Thursday, the 19th.

Tuesday, 24th (d). Set out with Colonel Powlett for London, called at Bellingbear, and arrived in Town the 26th.

Saturday, 28th. Set out from London, and arrived at Walhampton on the 29th.

Tuesday, 22nd October. Set out and arrived in Town the 24th (e).

Monday, 4th November. Paid Colonel Powlett my share of a retaining fee to Mr. Gould. (f).

1st September, 1746. Arrived at Hasborne.

6th. Arrived in London.

16th. Arrived at Walhampton.

18th. October. (g). Arrived in London".

The Trenchard (George) referred to in this diary was a descendant of a Trenchard, to whom in 1102 Baldwin de Redvers had granted the Manor of Hordle, and the family had

(a) This was just after he and Col. Charles Powlett had had a quarrel after dinner with the duke, as related in the "Annals."

(b) These visits were probably to relate the quarrel, and to discuss the names of new Burgesses to be made.

(c) Just after a number of his friends had been elected as new Burgesses at the Hall on the 11th.

(d) After he had been elected Mayor.

(e) About the actions which had been commenced.

(f) Their Chief Counsel.

(g) In readiness for the trial of the action which he won.

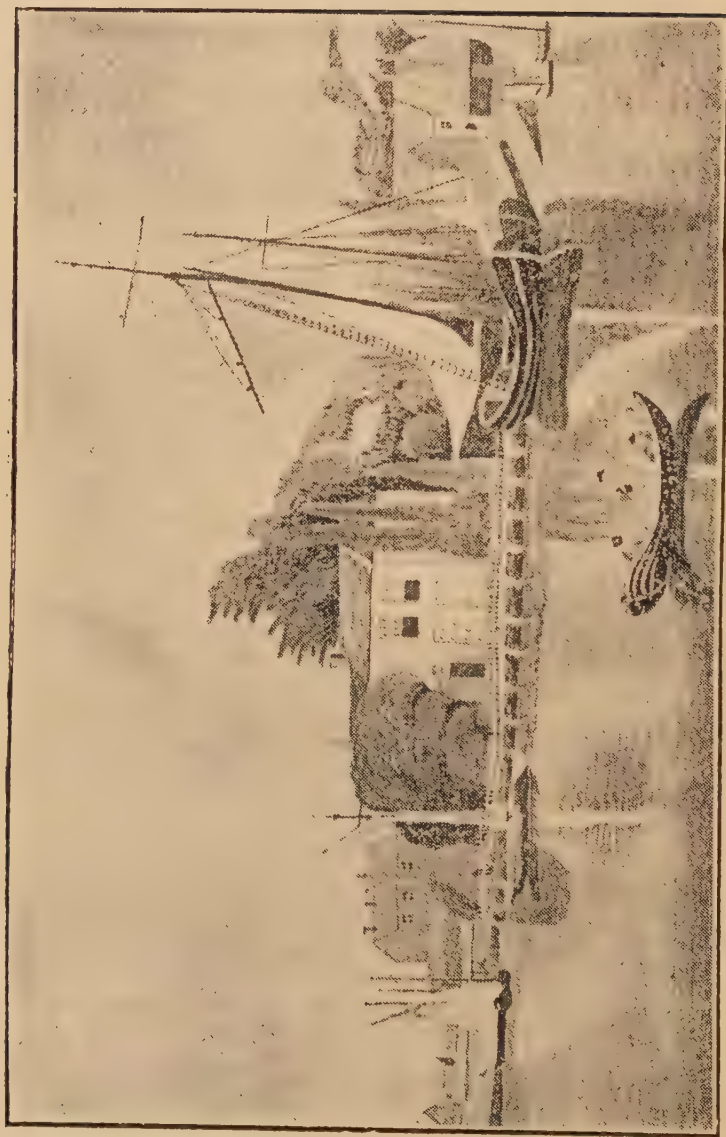
great influence in Lymington. The above George Trenchard was then a Burgess and had been Mayor in 1736.

All these battles, and others which are related in the "Annals," were really fought to secure the seats in Parliament which depended on the votes of the Burgesses, whom the Burrards generally appointed. Owing to the need which various Governments had for their support, the Burrards were greatly sought after by the Prime Ministers, such as Mr. Pelham, Lord North, and the Duke of Grafton, and the political influence of the Burrards enabled them to secure appointments, their own baronetcies, royal favour, and many other benefits. In return, the Burgesses of Lymington looked (not in vain) to the Burrards for local appointments and places for themselves and their friends, and a Burgess's recommendation went a long way with them. They were the Burrards' "friends," and naturally so. Even the book and chest, which were presented to the Town by Paul Burrard in 1711, were intended for the preservation of Parliamentary, rather than town, records.

After 1746, the Duke gave up the contest, and there was peace, the Burrard influence being paramount. He (Charles, 3rd Duke) died in 1754.

In 1774, the then Duke of Bolton desired a seat in Parliament for Mr. E. Morant, and promised to relinquish all his interest in the Corporation if this gentleman were returned. In the end Harry Burrard (then Sir Harry) agreed, on conditions, and an agreement was drawn up between the rivals to the effect that the Powletts should never more meddle with Corporation matters, and they never afterwards did, with the exception noted below.

It was possible that on signing the above agreement the Duke felt assured that he could, nevertheless, upset



THE QUAY, LYMINGTON, (probably 18th Century).

From the Original Watercolour in possession of Mr. E. Hapgood.

the whole Corporation, for in July 1775, he issued a Writ of *Quo Warranto* against all Burgesses elected through Sir Harry on October 10th, 1774. The Duke's affidavits stated that the Mayor had elected new Burgesses at a meeting which had really been called for the election of Members of Parliament. Sir Harry, however, avoided this fatal objection by having all those Burgesses legally elected at a subsequent Hall. The Duke's proceedings having been thus undermined, it then became useless for him to proceed further.

In 1769, Mr. Harry Burrard was made a baronet for political services rendered to the Duke of Grafton (Premier). He died in 1791, aged 84, leaving two nephews, both at that time members for Lymington, one his successor, Sir Harry, who afterwards assumed the name of Neale, and the other Lieut.-General Sir Harry Burrard (a separate baronetcy).

Some space may be here devoted to these two distinguished nephews. Sir Harry Burrard Neale (who was an Admiral) quelled the Mutiny at the Nore, captured many French frigates, and was a great favourite with the Royal family, who sought his society and visited his house on several occasions. A sister of his named Harriet was a great beauty, and was Sir Joshua Reynold's model for some of his pictures. It may have been this lady who attracted Sir Joshua to Lymington so frequently. Poems were written about this "fair Burrard" who eventually married Sir Giles Rooke. She was the ancestress of "Formosa Rooke," and a grandmother of W. H. G. Kingston, the novelist. Another sister Marianne married William Rooke^(a), the ancestor of the Rookes of Woodside, Lymington. Lieut.-General Sir Harry Burrard was a son of George the brother of the first baronet, who had settled in Jersey. In 1807 he commanded a division of

(a) See Appendix.

15,000 men at the siege of Copenhagen, and was created a baronet for his services. In August, 1808 he took over the command of the British forces in Portugal from Sir Arthur Wellesley and won the battle of Vimiera. He was several times Mayor of Lymington. His sister Anne married Charles Bowles, who had a daughter named Caroline. She lived at Buckland Cottage, was of a poetical turn, and married the poet laureate, Robert Southey. She was a great favourite with the General, who gave her numerous tickets for the military balls which were so frequent at that period, and accompanied her in her walks, which often terminated at the Reverend William Gilpin's. The General left a large family whose descendants still live in Jersey, but the baronetcy is extinct. Caroline Bowles is buried in Lymington churchyard. This lady was a prolific writer, and some of her correspondence has been used in this history. She describes her grandmother, Madame Burrard as "amongst her maidens throned at the eternal tapestry," and as usually "carried from the porch at Buckland Cottage on a sedan chair to her pew at Church," where "she bowed and curtsied to her friends before the service began."

In 1813 (Colonel Burrard says) "after the death of Lieut.-General Sir Harry Burrard, Admiral Sir Harry Burrard Neale and his brother, the Rev. George Burrard, entirely managed all the business of the Lymington Corporation." The writer seems, from the context, to think that the business of the Corporation was chiefly to return members to Parliament. There was certainly little else to do, as all the real business seems to have been conducted by the Overseers and Court Leet, and one can hardly wonder at the Town Clerk's salary at that time being only £3 a year.

The memorial raised to the memory of Sir Harry Burrard Neale after his death in 1840 is a conspicuous landmark at Lymington, being placed at the top of an artificial hill, the

site of a Roman *speculum* or watch tower at Walhampton, and thereon his virtues and exploits are set out at great length. On his death the Rev. George Burrard (his brother) succeeded to the title, and the surname of Neale was no longer in use. This gentleman died in 1856, aged 87, when his son George succeeded him as fourth baronet. He was accidentally drowned whilst bathing at Weymouth in 1870, aged 64. He was succeeded by his stepbrother Sir Harry, who died in 1871. His son, Sir Harry Paul Burrard (the present baronet) succeeded him, but the glory of the Burrards has departed with that of Lymington; there is no longer any connection between the two, and Walhampton has long since passed into other hands.

Walhampton House was sold by Sir H. P. Burrard in 1888 to Mr. J. P. Heseltine, who sold it in 1910 to the present Viscountess St. Cyres.

The memorial to Sir Harry Burrard Neale, which has been referred to, and which from its conspicuous position always attracts the attention of visitors, was raised in great part from public subscriptions, and in recognition of this, and from a knowledge of the real esteem in which the deceased Admiral was held both by residents of Lymington, and by the royal family, Sir George Burrard, on the 14th February, 1842, executed a deed giving the public free access to this memorial, which deed, together with a letter written in terms of gratitude to the Committee who had superintended the erection of the Memorial or Obelisk, is now in the Town Chest.

The cost of the Obelisk was £1482 3s., wholly raised locally. Under the corner stone were deposited specimens of the silver coinage of the reign of Victoria.

Many years later, viz., on 14th April, 1892, a Mr. Frank Crozier, who had acquired the freehold, presented the site of the Memorial to the Corporation, and also gave them £100 with the object of providing a fund from which the Memorial and

its site could be kept in good condition. This deed is also in the Town Chest, and the income from this fund is always applied in accordance with the terms of the trust. This Mr. Crozier had married Sir George Burrard's elder daughter Harriet. He was a Judge in India; but lived for forty years at "Delawarr," Lymington.

To complete this picture of the Burrard family it may be stated that the present baronet has no issue, but his uncle Sidney, son of Sir George, the third baronet, has left a numerous family including Sir Sidney Gerald Burrard, K.C.S.I., F.R.S., the author of "The Families of Borard and Burrard." They are all distinguished military officers. Sir Sidney (Colonel, Royal Engineers) was Surveyor General of India (1910—19), and had the chief direction in India of surveys in Mesopotamia during the great War. His brother, William Dutton Burrard, commanded a London Brigade, R.F.A., and was a Commandant of the R.A. Section at Rouen, 1916—17. Another brother, Harry George Burrard, was a Colonel, R.A.S.C., Commanded a staff of 43,000 men at the advanced Horse dépôt (1919), and was A.D.C. to the King in 1918. Gerald Burrard, son of Sir Sidney (Major, R.F.A.), was present at many battles.

For three centuries members of the family of Burrard were buried in a vault inside Lymington Church, but before the year 1549 all burials at Lymington are believed to have taken place in the Churchyard. "The remains of the two Paul Burrards, of Sir Harry the first baronet, and of Colonel William, his brother, are all believed to rest there. The last member of the family buried in the family vault was Sir Harry Burrard Neale. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th baronets were all buried in the Churchyard at Boldre."(*a*)

Further details of the Burrards will be found later as this history progresses.

(*a*) Communicated.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE REIGN OF THE BURRARDS. (1574—1832).

“Elizabeth seemed to delight in humbling the nobles” (Buckle).

“When civil dudgeon first grew high
And men fell out they knew not why” (Hudibras).

The period indicated in the heading of this chapter exactly tallies with the Burrard era. In 1574, George Burrard of the family of that name, which thenceforward was to rule the town for 258 years or more, (a) was elected Mayor.

A “town book” (known now as the “first town book”), existed at that time, and had been in use for many years before. The first portion of this book is destroyed, but, judging from the entries in the remaining portion, it contained little else but the Mayor’s accounts, orders, and records of the election of the Mayors and burgesses. The remaining fragment is full of crabbed writing, and almost unintelligible, but a transcript was made (probably in 1726) (b) of a portion of it, and from this and such portions of the remainder of the book as are decipherable, the history of Lymington at the beginning of this era can, in (very small) part, be traced. It is evident therefrom that the burgesses construed the Charters in a narrow spirit for the benefit of themselves and the spoliation of the other inhabitants. Thus we see all kinds of orders made for this purpose from time to time, of which the following are typical examples:—“Yt was agreed by ye Maior and burgesses before wrytten that from henceforth no p’son or p’sons whatsoever dwelling or inhabiting in ye towne not being ffree shall use or occupy anie kinde of

(a) Or for 300 years if the period between the date of the first Reform Bill of 1832 and 1885 be reckoned.

(b) By order of Mr. Paul Burrard.

craft occupason or trade in the town nor have and enioye any manner of libertye ffredome benyfytt or comodytie whatsoever in or by the sayde towne except he or they do first compounde with the Mayor of the towne for the tyme beinge for the same and that their composyssyon be recorded in the towne booke." Also no one might "take a stranger as his tenant or lodger without the Mayor's consent." The reservation of the privilege of buying oysters at 4d. a dozen to the burgesses at the letting out of the oyster fishing is also an instance of this self-preference on the part of the Burgesses.

There are many other instances of this selfishness and oppression, some of which appear in the following pages. Why the inhabitants put up with this oppression is quite understandable. They were ignorant, illiterate, and isolated, and to them the law of Lymington was the law of the land from which there was no appeal. The constitutional and civil laws of England even were at that time vague and uncertain, and, to a large extent, depended on the caprice of the monarch. This will be apparent from the next paragraph.

Just about this time Queen Elizabeth was entering upon a policy of checking the power of the counties and nobles by enlarging the franchise and granting it to the smaller boroughs. Lymington was such a borough, and she determined to enfranchise it accordingly. In order, however, to put a legal gloss or show of legality upon the transaction, a judgment as to the rights of the matter had to be given. Consequently in 1579 (21 and 22 Eliz.) a Writ of *Quo Warranto* was issued against the Burgesses as a matter of form; as a matter of form the Attorney General accepted the Burgesses' plea; and, with his consent, the judge gave the judgment which the Queen desired, viz., that Lymington was a qualified Borough.

The town possesses an old copy (made it is believed in the time of George I.) of the Latin exemplification of judgment

in the above *Quo Warranto* case, and (as it has not been previously translated) the important parts of it are set out below.

"In Michælmas Term, 21st year of Eliz. 1st Roll., Gerrard the Attorney General placed information against the Burgesses of Lymington that they had usurped Liberties and Freedoms etc., as in the recital of the Grant of Isabella de Fortibus and the Earl of Devon. (Here follows a recital at full length of these Charters). The Mayor and Burgesses say that a long time before the Information, and by warrant of their predecessors, former Mayors and Burgesses, and of Isabella and the Earl of Devon, they had used these Liberties, etc., which fact they were prepared to verify, and they asked for a verdict. The Attorney General testified that their plea is true. The Court, understanding this to be so, granted that the Mayor and Burgesses should continue to enjoy the aforesaid Liberties etc., according to the force and effect of the Indentures of Isabella and the Earl of Devon before mentioned which record was set forth in the Court. In Witness whereof we have ordered these letters patent to be made.

Witness: C. WRAY, at Westminster, 28th November, 22nd year of reign".

In 1584, under this judgment, Queen Elizabeth granted a Charter under the great seal to certain persons to return representatives for Lymington. This Charter has been lost, probably on the occasion of the trial at the Court of King's Bench in 1687, or on the occasion of subsequent election actions in 1695 and 1710; but thenceforward Lymington had the right under the *Quo Warranto* judgment, and this Charter, of sending two members to Parliament, a right which it exercised up to 1865, and a right which, in after years, gave Lymington a great importance in the eyes of Ministers and

made the holding of the seats an object of emulation to seekers after power and office.

The first members of Parliament for Lymington were Anthony and Richard Cooke, probably the sons of Sir Anthony Cooke, Secretary of State, who had the "nursing" of the Parliament in the Queen's interest, and it was not until 1625 that a friend of the Burrards (John Button) was returned. After the franchise had been given to Lymington, it appears, at first sight, surprising that the Burrards who, having the Mayoralty "in their pockets," could easily have got themselves returned as members, and who in after years were so keen in getting themselves, or their nominees, in Parliament, did not do so until after the lapse of a hundred years or so. The explanation is, however, quite simple. Until the end of the Stuart period the duty of going to Parliament was looked upon as a great burden. Elizabeth made a merit to her people of seldom summoning Parliaments, and many ancient Boroughs were exempted from sending Burgesses to Parliament on their plea of poverty. Moreover, Parliament met for no other purpose than to impose taxes, generally at the dictation of the Crown; and the right which it has since assumed, of constitutionally governing the country and supporting its liberties, did not then exist; and, in fact, there was nothing to be gained by a member of Parliament (and even a risk of life) until about the time when the Burrards actually did, in 1679, get themselves returned, at a time when the Commons were all powerful.

In 1584, it was ordered that the "Maior" should "take of every man within this town being not free for his libertie as that ye Maior shall think goode according to his dwelling and his behavior to ye towne."

In 1588, at the time of the Spanish Armada, Sir Edward Hoby had a martial commission from the Queen to raise

forces and defend the Southern Counties, and the Lymington seamen and train bands were under his supreme command. There were musters of the seamen and inhabitants, and much expenditure on powder, matches, and covers for arquebuses, also for morions (head-pieces), powder flasks, etc. William Wallop, "a bold adventurer by land and sea," formerly M.P. for Lymington, and afterwards an Admiral, appears to have had the local command, or a share in it. This Sir Edward Hoby was the only member who, afterwards, dared to rise from his seat in Parliament and complain of the exactions of the Exchequer.

In the same year there occurs the first notice of the election of a non-resident as a Burgess of Lymington. He had seisin of the town by delivery of 1d., as was the custom, though not always kept up.

The price of provisions exercised the Burgesses to a great extent; thus in 1594 all butchers were ordered to deliver their tallow to one John Pratt, whom the Corporation had appointed town chandler at a stated price of 2d. per pound, and all "forryners," i.e., strangers, to the town, were also to sell their tallow to him at the same price. The price of candles (an important commodity) was also fixed at 4d. per pound.

In 1593, the petty records of the town burst into unwonted splendour when Robert Pamplin, a great man at Court and some time Yeoman of the Bedchamber, was made a Burgess. He was presented with a symbolic twopence instead of the usual penny which Burgesses received on their election, and a special reference was made in the town book suitable to the occasion. This gentleman afterwards (1609) became Mayor, and then presented the town with the second Town Book on the cover of which is written "The Towne Booke of Limington. Given by Mr. Robert Pamplin in the time of his

Maioralte which was in Anno Dmi 1609; wherein are written the Accompts of the Maiors of the Towne, and divers orders concerning the Towne." This is the gentleman to whom Charles I. gave a grant of mudlands, to the ultimate injury of the port, as is related in the chapter on the river.

In 1599, the Mayor (Ralph Burrard) and one Burgess were commissioned to go to London to "appease" an action brought against the town by the Exchequer with respect to the profits of the fairs and markets, of which, it seems, the Exchequer claimed a share. The Mayor was to consult counsel thereon, and be allowed his expenses, for which the entry says "the towne stock and goods shall be lyable to defraye the charges thereof." It would appear that the action was settled on terms, and thenceforward the sum of £1 12s. 1d yearly was paid "to the Londoners." In the same year, the finances of the town being straightened by a dispute with certain "disobedient persons," Holmes Mead (the rent of which had formed the principal emolument of the Mayor) was let, and the Mayor compensated by a yearly sum of 50/-.

On the 18th September, 1600, a partial rate was levied for the maintenance of the town pump in the High Street; those refusing to pay having to pay "dubbell," or receive such punishment as by the "Maior shall seem fitt," and two of the Burgesses, viz., Thomas Whale and John Barnes, were appointed to collect the rate and look after the pump and well. There were, of course, many private pumps and wells, but this town pump, as distinguished from other wells, from which the water was drawn either by chain and bucket or by pumps, was the chief source of public supply, and stood in the centre of the street until quite modern times; and, as there was no wheeled traffic, was no obstruction. One of the townsmen on whom the above rate was levied was George Truman, landlord of the "Nag's Head" (now the "Londesborough" Hotel), who is mentioned in an Order made to rescind a previous Order not

to let Holmes' Mead, as one who, with other disobedient persons, had raised "divers trubbles against ye towne." These troubles had arisen from the jealousy of the Burgesses, who sought to tax and hamper the commonalty in every possible way. Many people refused to compound with the Mayor for their licences, and a list was taken of these obnoxious tradesmen, who afterwards had to suffer in fines and refusal of licences accordingly, George Truman being of the company. Even some of the Burgesses rebelled against the Mayor, and, "through the instigation of idell and lewde persons," were not so "winning together" as they should have been.

On the 2nd January, 1606, John More, of North Baddesley, was elected Steward for life at 40/- per annum, when he was also elected a free Burgess.

The plague about this time became rampant, and Luke Stevens, who was Mayor in 1606, died of it at his house on Quay Hill. The book containing the town Orders, which was at his house, was, prudently, ordered to be destroyed. Orders were made in 1607 that Burgesses who should fail to attend the Mayor should be fined 6/8d.

At this time, and until the introduction of tea and coffee, etc., there was a common town brewer who was authorised to brew and sell beer at certain fixed rates. An entry relating to this appears in 1606. There was also an Ale-taster.

In 1609, Henry Spelman, a son of the antiquary, and a descendant of the Spylemans who (as we have seen) had some connection with Lymington, was given by John Smith to Powhattan in Virginia as a hostage, and he remained with the Indians, as an interpreter, for 13 years.

In 1615, an Order was made for all butchers to sell their tallow to Thomas Turner at a fixed price, and the price of

candles and salt was also fixed, and no one was to sell candles except Turner.

In the same year it was ordered that pigs should not be suffered within the town unless yoked or ringed, and no pigs were to be at large in the High Street on Market Day. Notwithstanding this it would seem that they continued to be the only scavengers for long afterwards, with the exception of certain farmers who collected the manure (a valuable concession), and, in return, brought gravel to throw down in the roadways, which was the only method of repairing them.

In 1617, it was ordered that no one should take any freight to the Isle of Wight on the Sabbath Day. It was in this year that an information was laid against one Asshe, of Lymington, for smuggling wool.

In 1619, it was ordered that the town well should be cleaned, and £1 14s. 2d. was ordered to be paid to Mr. William Clarke for a suit against George Burrard.

In 1621, it was ordered that all corn landed at the Quay should only be sold in the Market, under a penalty of 12d. a bushel, and official porters were appointed, the charge for portorage being fixed at 3d. per quarter.

The following entries occur in the town book about this time:—"Mending ye Cucking Stool 3/-; New Pillory and Cucking Stool 16/-; Ducking Stool and Pillory 50/-; Rope and Collar for Bull 12/-; Rope and Bull-ring 5/6;" wherefrom it would appear that the baiting of bulls was a municipal matter.

In 1622, an Order was made that any Burgess not assisting the Mayor in executing justice and repressing disorder should be fined 6/8d., with a similar fine for non-attendance at "Halls," and a fine of £5 for refusing the office of Mayor. It was also ordered that the Burgesses

should wear their gowns when attending the Mayor, and should take the Burgess oath within two Courts after election.

In 1625, an Order was made against the "prophanation of the Lord's daie called "Sunday" and against "vaine swearing and blaspheminge;" evidently a blow against the Royalist party by the Burgesses, who were then chiefly Puritans.

In 1626, there was much agitation in the town, there being fifteen proclamations at the Market Cross, and the Mayor (Francis Guidot) having to go thrice to Southampton and twice to Winchester concerning soldiers (including "Irishers") quartered in or passing through the town in readiness to relieve the Huguenots at Rochelle. The Irish (whose importation into the kingdom was one of King Charles's tyrannical freaks) were specially troublesome; one at least (no doubt more than appears) had to be gaoled and £2 15s. (a considerable sum) had to be expended for the "redshanks," (so called on account of their bare legs), diett, and conduct money."

In that year the town was fined 6/8d. for not keeping up the town butt for archery, as required by a Statute of Henry VIII., which was then getting obsolete in consequence of the introduction of the arquebus.

In 1628, when a subsidy was granted to the King, the Royalist Burgesses got an Order passed that no Burgess should be made until he had paid the subsidy. The two political parties in the town must have been nearly equal at that time. The Order was passed in face of the Mayor (Lawrence Sherwin) who was a strong Puritan. This Order was, however, rescinded before the Civil War broke out.

In 1631, expense was incurred in conveying out of the town to Beaulieu a "Bedlam fellow," i.e., one of the harmless

lunatics licensed to beg, and fitted up with a ring and arm badge to show who he was.

In this year an entry shows that most of the houses in the town consisted merely of wooden frames covered with "wattle and daub."

In 1633, one of the proclamations (which continued to be numerous) at the Market Cross was that all country gentlemen should reside on their estates. This was to help quell the rising spirit of rebellion, and emanated from the querulous fears of Charles I.

In 1635, the King had ordered that all persons who had claims to Crown lands should prove their titles or compound by a sum of money (*a*). The Corporation accordingly put in their claim and proof with all legal formalty at Winchester, and it does not appear that the Crown got any money from them (*b*). It is notorious that some of the King's requirements were perhaps as much irritating and absurd as exacting; such as the Order that all persons having more than £15 a year were to receive Knighthood and pay fees. There was also the Order of the 1st May, 1637, to stop the emigration of Puritans to America, due to the discovery that they had taken £12,000,000 out of the country.

In 1642, Civil War had broken out and there was a great emigration from Lymington and Southampton to Massachusetts. "Gardiner's Bay" has its name from a Lymington emigrant. (From 1620, when the "Mayflower" sailed from Southampton, to 1640, some 20,000 Englishmen left England for America. Amongst the Virginia names we also find that of Sir William Courtenay).

- (a) One of the numerous devices by Charles I. to obtain money, which the House of Commons was unwilling to supply.
- (b) Claims to mudlands on the foreshore at Lymington, although in feudal times the ownership was indisputably in the lord, and presumably passed to the Burgesses by the lord's Charters, also became an issue between the Crown and the Burgesses.

Lymington took the Parliamentary side in the Civil War. There was a train band, many troops were quartered in or passed through the town, and Captain St. Barbe raised a troop of horse. Money was levied from the town by the County Parliament Committee (or "Classis"), and that Committee had a large proportion of Lymington names on its list.

The Church and Churchyard were much defaced and desecrated in these times, the gravestones being nearly all removed, probably for a barricade (the Churchyard, which then stood out further into the street, being probably used as a military post), and the general condition of the inhabitants was wretched, they being "much oppressed by the common enemy and disorderly soldiers." as also by many "lewde and lawless people who plundered and thieved." The town records were sent to Hurst Castle for safety. (There is an entry "for bringing the town chest from Hurst Castle, 2/-") and the services of the Church ceased. John Button and Harry Campion were members for Lymington in the long Parliament, the former being member 1640—1661.

In 1647, when King Charles made his ill-advised flight from Hampton Court, he was accompanied by Lord Ashburnham and Sir John Berkley, who left him for the purpose of ascertaining the views of Colonel Hammond, the Governor of the Isle of Wight (which had then a separate administration), at Carisbrooke Castle. These gentlemen, being detained by bad weather, stayed a day at Lymington before crossing the Solent. There is a tradition that Charles himself stayed at the "King's Arms," Lymington; but research establishes the fact that both on the journey to Carisbrooke, and on going from there to Hurst Castle, and from thence to his last journey, he took different routes and went from Hurst Castle via Milford.

During Cromwell's dictatorship, what with rioting, plundering, soldiering, and stoppage of trade, Lymington seems to have had a distressful time, and the rich out-burgesses were asked to start a clothing factory to aid the distressed people, but nothing came of it. The only thing done to aid Lymington was apparently a grant by Cromwell in aid of the Minister at the Church. During the war there had been no one to take on the duties, and burial services and baptisms were performed by pious laymen. One curious order was made in Cromwell's time, viz., that the Mayor should give, upon the election day, a dinner to the Burgesses and their wives, and be allowed £3 therefor, or forfeit the sum of £5. This custom lasted till 1672. In addition the Mayor always invited a number of the inhabitants on that day to a public breakfast at the Town Hall, and they afterwards went in procession to the Church.

In 1648, when Prince Charles appeared off Yarmouth with an army of 2,000 men and 19 sail to rescue his father, he was aided and abetted by various Burgesses, including the Mayor, Barnard Knapton.

In 1653, William Burrard was fined £2 1s. at the Court Leet for not taking the office of Mayor, as he was enjoined to do; and another £2 1s. for not taking the Mayor's oath. He afterwards (1668) accepted the office. Presumably, he feared the responsibility during those troubled times.

On the Restoration, the general revulsion of feeling spread to Lymington, and in 1660 there was a great rejoicing and considerable expenditure by the Corporation for beer, powder for firing salvos, material for bonfires, and bellringing. At the Coronation in 1661, there were more rejoicings and a general muster of train bands.

In 1665, the state of joy had considerably ebbed, and the Puritan feeling was again uppermost. There is an item "for

warning the watch this troublesome time," and the plague was again prevalent in the town.

In 1661, an oppressive Corporations Act was passed under which (amongst other provisions) the Burgesses were required to receive Communion according to the rites of the Anglican Church. Royal Commissioners visited Lymington to enforce the Act, and the following is an epitome of their Report.

After reciting that they had been appointed Commissioners under the new Act for the better governing of Corporations, and had visited Lymington and asked the Burgesses to take the oath of allegiance appointed under that Act, the Commissioners declared that Philip Dore, then Mayor, with Francis Guidott, William Dore (all of whom had been Mayors), Thomas Glevin, Junr., and John Edwards (another ex-Mayor), being all Burgesses of the Borough, appeared before them, when Philip Dore refused to take the oath and was displaced from his office of Mayor, whereupon Francis Guidott took the oath and was declared to be Mayor in his place; but none of the other Burgesses appearing, there was nothing more done and it was declared that they, the Commissioners, had displaced Philip Dore, Bartholomew Bulkeley, George Burrard, William Edwards, Richard Whitehead, John Hurst, John Kilde, Thomas Glevin, Robert Hurst, George Denvey, William Tulse, Henry Whitehead, Richard Edwards, Thomas Boreman, Richard Whitehead the younger, Henry Tulse, Richard Phillips, John Wilson, Francis Thrower and John Rydveet from their office as Burgesses, and replaced them by others, viz.: John Lamport, George King, Edward Stacey, William Moon, Richard King and William Tillrow. The new Burgesses were enrolled, with the exception of Tillrow and Richard King, but some of the displaced Burgesses afterwards became Mayors.

It was at this time when Baptists first began to hold meetings in the town. One of the strongest supporters of the

Baptist Church in Lymington in the 18th Century was a Dore, probably a descendant of Thomas or Philip Dore.

There is a note in the account for 1662 that Francis Guidott (then Mayor) "kept no feast," i.e., did not provide the public dinner according to the Town orders. The visit of the above Commissioners, and the action of the recalcitrant Burgesses, with the dread of penalties to come, probably disinclined him to feasting. He was, nevertheless, not allowed the £3 that year in consequence.

From about 1660, the Burgesses began to job away portions of the Barfields or Borough fields, which had been presented centuries before to the town by Baldwin de Redvers (8th Earl), for the benefit of the inhabitants at large, but appropriated by the Burgesses and allotted out to them in the Spring as Lammas lands. (From 1663 to 1784 the Burrards purchased at different times 50 acres of this land, for which they appear to have given a good price, and finally on the decline of that family, this area was disposed of to various purchasers.)

In 1668, the Burrards purchased Walhampton, and the privilege of returning two members for the Borough was afterwards styled in political circles "the Walhampton interest."

In the same year George Fulford (elected a Burgess in 1667) assigned to the Corporation two acres of land at Buckland Newton, Dorset, to found a free school for boys at Lymington.

In the same year, also, Charles Guidot sold to John Coombes, Shipbuilder, "all that piece of mud or sea ozzy (ousey) land bounded on the north by the town slip, on the east by the sea or river, and on the west by the King's Highway," the whole comprising $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres, and which has ever since been a shipyard. This Guidot, and Francis Guidot, who

had been many times Mayor of the town, were descendants of a celebrated wealthy family (Guidotti) from Florence, and Sir Anthony Guidot was in 1549 a Merchant at Southampton and the Ambassador who brought about peace with France in that year. It seems probable, therefore, that the trade usages in Southampton and Lymington at that time were influenced by the Florentines. Francis Guidot also seems to have been instrumental in promoting the free school above mentioned.

On the 20th September, 1669, Bartholemew Bulkeley, then Lord of the Manor (which he seems to have acquired as Mortgagee), and afterwards a member for the borough, presented the town with the freehold of a number of shops and tenements in the High Street known as the "Shambles," from being occupied principally by butchers (*a*) and which the Corporation had hitherto held on lease for two or three hundred years, as is evidenced by the fact that these same tenements were let by the Corporation to John Pepwhyte in 1409 (*b*), which lease was afterwards produced in evidence in Court in an election petition.

The rents of these shops appeared in the Mayor's accounts from time to time. This place was where posts were put up by the butchers for the purpose of killing their beasts, afterwards, in more refined times, considered a scandal. The presentation was in effect a release of the lord's dues.

In 1670, the Burgesses were allowed their claim to rights of turbary, pannage, and pasture in the Forest. In after years they ceased to exercise their rights, which were disallowed through non-usage in 1846 (*c*).

In the year 1673, a tenement containing one hall, a shop, and a chamber over, commonly called "The Angel," was

(*a*) The original deed is in the Town Chest.

(*b*) Ibid.

(*c*) "Old Times Revisited."

leased by this same Bartholemew Bulkeley to Edward Smith for a term of 200 years. The fact is interesting, as the present "Angel Hotel," then the "George" Inn, just opposite, is believed to have taken its new name therefrom (a).

In 1674, on the occasion of the cessation of the Dutch war, the following entry occurs:—"Spent at ye 'Nag's Head' in a treat upon ye company £2 3s. 7d." It is fortunate that no District auditors existed at that time.

In 1675, entries of moneys received for licences, show that the following Inns were then in the town, viz.: the "Nag's Head" ("Londesborough") the "George" ("Angel") "White Lion" ("Red Lion") and the "Bugle" (a corruption of "Bubale," a species of wild bull). There were probably, however, at least, four other Inns. In the following year the "King's Arms" (Charles II.) were set up in the Church.

In 1678, there is an entry of one John Doe on his admission as Burgess having to record his repudiation of the Solemn League and Covenant, and in 1698, Roger Mompesson made a like declaration. This was to keep out friends of the once dominant party, as the provisions of the Corporations Act requiring this were usually ignored.

In 1680, Sir John Coventry, whose nose was afterwards slit by profligate members of the Court party, was elected a Burgess, thus showing the anti-Court feeling in the Borough at that time.

An interesting light is shewn upon the habits and customs of the Lymington folk during the period 1675—1697 by some old deeds. 'Most of these were drawn by Mr. William Vesey, as the existing records call him (or William Vessey as he himself signs). He was an Attorney in the town and also Town Clerk, the latter post not being much of a tax

upon his time. This was a transition period in conveyancing, commencing with small deeds, sometimes partly in Latin and partly in English, and ending with deeds more like those of the present day. The chief method of conveyancing at Lymington was by means of a long lease for 1,000 years, together with a bond for quiet enjoyment, and Wills were proved in the Archdeaconary of Winchester. The Wills, as was usual during the whole period of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, were drawn up in a very pious way, commencing usually with the words "In the name of God, Amen. I commit my soul to Almighty God, my body to the earth, and my worldly goods as follows." In contrast to this pious strain we find a certain Burgess of the town, who was a Churchwarden and a well-to-do man, after commencing his Will in this way, (A.D. 1716) leaving his daughter a shilling. This was the usual method when a testator wished to leave a child nothing, and originated the phrase to "cut him off with a shilling," the idea being to save his sanctity, as he could not have been said then to have left his child disinherited. So people have deceived themselves in matters of religion! In another example of a Will at a later period (1750) the testator makes his first bequest as follows:—"First I give and bequeath my soul to God my Maker hoping through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ my Saviour for pardon of all my sins and life everlasting, and my body to the earth." His next bequest is 1/- to his mother! In 1759 there seems to have been some slight falling off in religious expression, for in a Will of that date a testator, after commencing "In the name of God, Amen," goes straight to business.

That they were not ostentatious in those days is shown by the fact that a well-to-do Burgess of the time, a friend of the Burrards, was content to live in a small house in Nelson Place, and we have already seen that a Mayor died at his house at Quay Hill. It is an interesting record, either of

the value of money or the cheapness of houses in those days, that a house in Nelson Place was sold in 1693 for £27, shortly afterwards for £40, and in 1697 for £50. In 1775 the house was valued at £75, and in 1789 was sold for £70.

On May 6th, 1684, at a Hall held on that date, it was resolved that "a new Corn Market with a Town House over it shall be built upon pillars on the ground whereon the butcher's shambles stand at a charge not exceeding £220." The butchers referred to were compensated for the loss of their stalls, and a legacy of John Button to the amount of £100 was laid out on the building, the rest of the money being subscribed. This was the second Town Hall. It stood opposite the present houses, Nos. 93 and 94, High Street, in the High Street close to the pavement. The pillory, stocks, and whipping post, as well as a number of unsightly sheds and buildings, stood close by this building.

In 1685, Thomas Dore, who was Mayor of the town in the two preceding years, raised a troop of horse on behalf of the Duke of Monmouth, whom he joined at Sedgmoor. After the battle there, when the Duke was defeated, he fled for his life, and not being included in the Bill of Indemnity did not appear again till after the Revolution, when he was returned (1689) with John Burrard as one of the members of Parliament. There was a strong party for Monmouth in the town, and the conspirators were accustomed to meet at Mrs. Knapton's house, which was probably on the site of "Monmouth House" (Dr. Maturin's). The story is told that a party of soldiers were sent to arrest them at a meeting held there, but having had previous information the party escaped. After the battle of Sedgmoor the Duke of Monmouth struck across country with the idea of reaching Lymington and sailing thence to France, but was captured at Ringwood.

The usual proclamations were made at the accession of James II., and "for all manner of expenses at the treat of our two burgesses of Parliament" £15 was expended.

In 1687, a Writ of *Quo Warranto* was issued against the town at the instance of the Court party, who were anxious to restrain the democratic spirit which had arisen during the previous twenty years, and who probably remembered the report of the Commissioners before referred to. It was, moreover, at that time the policy of the Court party to seize all the Town Charters they could. George Burrard, Attorney, of Lyon's Inn, was instructed for the defence, and William Eyre as Counsel. The next year the expenses of the suit, which was not proceeded with, were ordered to be paid. According to entries in the Town Book the expenses came to about £48.

In 1688, the Burgesses, remembering that George Fulford had endowed a boys' school in Lymington, were inclined to be equally generous, and decided that the new town hall which they had recently built (on 18 pillars) should be given for the school room. They were more inclined to this as the town hall was seldom used, the Burgesses being fonder of discussing matters at the "Nag's Head" and other Inns. They accordingly, on the 25th March, 1688, executed a Deed of Grant to certain trustees, who had been appointed, in these words:—"Now this Indenture Witnesseth that the said Major and Burgesses in consideration of the benefit and good effects experienced in teaching and training youth in Learning and Religion in the said School according to the Regulations ordered by the said foundation, and for that hitherto on sufficient building hath been set out and allotted in Lymington for that purpose and being minded to advance, promote, and further this good and charitable work and design the said Major (*sic*) and Burgesses do hereby mutually consent, assent and grant to Thomas Wansey, Matthew Hawkins and (name obliterated) All that their New erected Building now standing upon eighteen stone pillars and situate and being in the High Street of Lymington aforesaid etc., To hold the same etc.,

upon trust that the said New erected Building shall for ever continue and be a public school for the instruction of youth in Learning and in the Protestant religion according to the foundation of the said George Fulford."

In one of the recitals in the Deed it was announced that the boys would be taught Latin, Greek, writing, and arithmetic, and that the School would be called "The Free School of the foundation of George Fulford, Esq." Endorsed on the Deed (a) is a memorandum that possession of the building was duly given to the trustees.

A century or so afterwards, when this School was done away with, the Charity was vested in the Vicar and Churchwardens of the Parish Church, and the income from the land in Dorset applied in aid of the Church Schools. In 1922 these trustees being afraid they might lose the Government grant on account of the School playground being insufficient in area, sold the land in Dorset, and with the proceeds purchased land adjoining the present Infants School for the purpose of enlarging the playground. As this gives no monetary return, and the playground, except a very small sum of money, represents the only fund of Fulford's Charity, the Charity may now be said to be virtually extinct though nominally still existing.

In 1688, another Writ of *Quo Warranto* had been issued against the town; but the Burgesses pleaded that they were a Borough by prescription: the matter was discussed in the (now powerful) House of Commons: a resolution was passed against such proceedings being taken, and the matter dropped (b).

In 1689, the accession of William and Mary was proclaimed (as was the custom at every accession to the

(a) The above extract is made from a dilapidated copy of the Deed at the Town Hall.

(b) Bohun. A collection of resolutions etc. of the H. of C. p. 289.

throne) at the Market Cross, with a large expenditure for wine, beer and tobacco (evidently proving that the custom of smoking was then very general) as well as for drummers. The inhabitants ("scott and lot" men) of the town at large seemed to think these changeable times were suitable for the assertion of their democratic rights, and elected Thomas Jervoise and Oliver Cromwell (son of Richard Cromwell) as their representatives. The return, however, was disallowed, and the Burgesses' candidates (Dore and Burrard) elected.

The Burrard family were strong supporters of the Revolution, and John Burrard was one of the Assembly who encouraged William of Orange to come over.

In that year Roger Mompesson was appointed Recorder of the Borough.

In 1690, the Powlett family commenced to share the parliamentary interest in the borough.

In the year 1693 there were public rejoicings at the escape of King William from the "Assassination Plot." Party feeling in the nation, being now very strong, the aristocratic Burgesses who lived away came to vote at Lymington for the Parliamentary candidates (Dore and Burrard), and the political importance of Lymington from this time became very great. Members of Parliament could oblige Ministers, and receive honours and offices, and Mr. Burrard, through his paramount influence over the Burgesses could appoint two members. Therefore, Mr. John Burrard deserved to be honoured, and we find in 1689 he was Ranger of the New Forest, Colonel of Infantry, and Vice-Admiral of the Seas. His successors, until 1832, all basked in the sunshine of Royal and government favours. No doubt they deserved them, for they always appear to have been capable and courtly gentlemen.

On the 19th March, 1693, Sir John Trenchard, of the great family previously mentioned in this history, was made a Secretary of State. He had previously been concerned in the conspiracy to aid Monmouth, and was the confidential friend of King William whom he had greatly aided on this side of the water. His family had formerly held the Manors of Hordle and Walhampton, but, at this period, their possessions were confined to Dorset.

In 1694, several seamen who had the smallpox were sent to Ringwood. The reason for this, and how it was Ringwood did not object, is not apparent. In a similar way we find that "vagabonds" were carted off to Pennington and Battramsley on occasion.

In 1695 a petition was presented to Parliament by the commonalty or populace, praying that they might participate in the election of members of Parliament, but this petition, as well as another presented in 1710, was rejected; the House of Commons (which it will be remembered, consisted wholly of landed gentry) having already decided that the Burgesses alone were entitled to vote.

The following is a copy of a record in 1695 (there are many such records) of the return of members of Parliament in that year.

Burgus de }
Lymington }

Mem. That on the 29th day of October 1695 the Mayor and burgesses of the said Borough whose names are subscribed, by virtue of a precept from the Sheriff of the County of Southampton, assembled at the Town Hall within the said Borough, and then and there did elect John Burrard Esq. and Thomas Dore, Burgesses for Parliament to be held at Westminster the Two and Twentieth Day of November next coming, by the majority according to the effect of the said precept.

(Signatures of Burgesses).

This would be followed by a deed executed by the Sheriff declaring the return of the members. (There are four or five of these deeds remaining in the Town Chest). The actual voting was done in the same way as the voting for the Mayor.

In 1699, Hurst Castle was still used as a prison, as an entry in that year shows that the expenses of taking John Brent as a prisoner there were 4/-. In the same year there is an entry "Paid John Ashley for a Bull Collar and Roape 14/-." This John Ashley lived at the corner of Ashley Lane which derives its name from him.

In the same year the first Town Clerk was appointed, in the person of Mr. William Vesey. This gentleman had practised as an attorney and scrivener in the town for many years previously, and was also steward at the Court Leet. His name was really "Vessy," though commonly written by others "Vesey."

In 1700, there was a great contest between the Burgesses for the Parliamentary seats, which yearly got more valuable; but the Burrard partisans were easy victors.

In 1707, Southampton held a Court of Admiralty in Lymington. Also in the following year.

In 1708, the Mayor's breakfast on Christmas Day (a recurrent event), cost £3, and the Duke of Bolton (Mayor) gave the Corporation a fat buck and £5 5s. Another Court of Admiralty was held this year.

From 1709 no more accounts were entered in the town book, such matters being now left to parish and vestry meetings, and the Town Clerk.

In 1710, Mr. Paul Burrard, one of the sitting members, and Mayor, proceeded to make a reformation in the town. He presented the Burgesses with a grand new town book of

massive proportions (the "third Town Book") with a long memorandum inside in wonderful black ink and texted penmanship, together with a strong oak chest for preserving the town documents. This book, still as good as new, is worth seeing as a fine specimen of the bookbinder's art and penmanship. The records contained therein are, however, very trivial. It was, perhaps, too cumbersome for use (weighing, perhaps, some 2 stones). The documents with which he was concerned were really those preserving the rights of the free Burgesses to vote as against the other residents, and it was ordered, about this time, that the proceedings in Parliament regulating the right of voting should be transcribed and entered in this book.

On the hearing of a petition which was then presented complaining of an improper election, two deeds were produced, one being the grant, set out in the "River" chapter, dated (7 Ed. III.) 1333, being a grant from Southampton to William Lyttletane and Roger Gust, of New Lymington, and the Burgesses, of certain privileges, and the other the grant by Robert Draper (*praepositus*) of "Neuve Lymington," and the Burgesses, to John Pepwhyte, under the common seal, of a shop site at the Shambles. Both these deeds are still preserved, but it is suggested (*a*) that the Charter under the great seal of Elizabeth to return representatives to Parliament may have been produced and mislaid and lost on this occasion.

Mr. Burrard also in the same year erected a third Town Hall, at his own expense, to the east of the old building and in the centre of the High Street. This was a square building, larger than the old one (or "newly erected building") with a cupola, containing the alarm bell at the top.

His idea was to have a grander building for the benefit of the numerous nobility and gentry who then constantly visited Lymington.

(*a*) Annals of Walhampton.

In October, 1710, the inhabitants made an attempt to secure direct representation by electing John Walker and William Forbes as members. This election was, however, nullified almost directly by the return of Lord William Pawlett and Paul Burrard, the Mayor's nominees.

On the 3rd December, 1711, Messrs. Warner and Newman were granted a lease of the river "from Lymington Key to St. Ambrose Dock," reserving to the Mayor and Burgesses the right to have oysters from the oyster beds at their own price. It seems that the lessees were out of pocket by the transaction, and the lease was rescinded.

Lymington, as a Puritan place, was very loyal to the House of Hanover, and proclamations and bellringing at Coronations and the like always marked any public event. In 1715, for instance, bells were rung for the success over the rebels at Preston. From various entries it would appear that the cost of this bellringing was included in the Mayor's accounts.

In 1713, Sir Joseph Jekyl, Master of the Rolls, was an M.P. for Lymington.

In 1715, John Northover was made a Burgess. He was captain of the merchant vessel which brought over Peter the Great from Saardam in 1697.

In 1716, there appears an entry of £1 10s. for painting the King's Arms which had been set up in the Church in 1676, and a certain economy is evident in the fact that the initial "C" previously used for Charles II. was altered to "G."

In 1720, John Wallop, Esq., was created Earl of Lymington. The Wallops had represented Lymington in Parliament in the 16th Century.

In 1722, Sir Gilbert Heathcote, Governor of the Bank of England, was elected M.P. for the Borough.

In 1726, Mr. Paul Burrard caused an index to the Town Book to be made and also a transcript of the first Town Book which then, as now, was very torn and illegible. With regard to the latter, the transcriber did about fourteen pages and then had to give up his task. Mr. Burrard also at the same time made a search for and a schedule of the ancient documents in the Town Hall, which schedule was as follows:—

1. A Grant to fairs, market, and the quay. (*Tem. Henry IV.*)
2. Confirmation of above. H. IV.)
3. Grant from Southampton of the right of anchorage etc. (1334).

(In the same year for the purposes of an action with Southampton *re* customs, Mr. Burrard sent the above three documents to Mr. William Samber, of Lyon's Inn, Attorney. They were never returned. It is singular that in the very act of care-taking Mr. Burrard himself should have been the primary cause of the loss of these documents. Fortunately Latin copies exist).

4. A Grant of 20/- per annum to Churchwardens for a requiem. (Still existing).
5. Twelve Title deeds relating to Dameroseday, the earliest dated 1365. (These are still intact in the same little box in which Mr. Burrard put them).
6. Grant of a messuage at Romsey to Nicholas Gladheyt (1423). (Still there).
7. Grant of a tenement in New Lymington by Ellis (1504). (Still there).
8. Grant of the old Town Hall or Court Hall, and $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land by Juliana Tevant (1463). (Still there).

(The Charters all appear to have been missing in Mr. Burrard's time; but several Latin copies of Charters and various other documents, which Mr. Burrard does not appear

to have noticed, are still in the Town Chest. In 1927, translations were made of those which were untranslated under direction of the special Committee appointed for old M.SS., and Brig.-General Newenham (then Mayor) had four old deeds examined and translated at the British Museum. This Committee made a full report which was printed for circulation.)

In 1728, and probably long before and after that date, it was customary for the Mayor and Burgesses to meet at the "Nag's Head" ("Londesborough") and discuss parish matters with the Overseers and Churchwardens.

In 1731, the Court Leet presented that the fire alarm bell should be put in a more convenient place. This is an example of the dual (or triune) jurisdiction over the town, which seems to require expert exposition, if such were possible. This is the year in which Captain Cross started to build his bridge (see "River" chapter.)

In 1735, the Rev. Ezra Cleaveland published his "Genealogical History of the Noble Family of Courtenay," now very rare, from a copy of which, lent by Lord Halifax, whose wife was a Courtenay, considerable excerpts have been made by the writer in this book.

In 1736, the body of Mr. Samuel Baldwin, a barrister of the Inner Temple, resident at Lymington, was, according to the terms of his Will dated 22nd March, 1735, buried at sea just outside the Needles.

In the same year a lease of the new Town Hall (Mr. Burrard's) was granted to Mr. William Brixton, reserving to the Mayor and Burgesses the right to hold "fairs and markets" underneath. There is no record of what eventually became of the first Town Hall. The last entry concerning this is one referring to the setting up of the King's Arms there in 1677.

In 1744, there were 585 houses within the walls of Southampton, and Lymington had as many.

In 1744, nearly 2 cwt. of Roman Coins in 2 urns were discovered at Buckland Rings. (*Wise and Camden's Britt.*)

The year 1745 was the period when the struggle between the Burrards and the Powletts was at its height.

In 1750, the Prince of Wales (father of George III.) resided for some time at Pylewell, then the seat of the Worsley family, for the benefit of his health, and was made a freeman.

In 1756, an order was made prohibiting the Burgesses from killing their beasts in the High Street, but this order appears to have been disregarded, even after the Town Sergeant had removed their posts. A Court of Admiralty was held by Southampton on the Quay in this year.

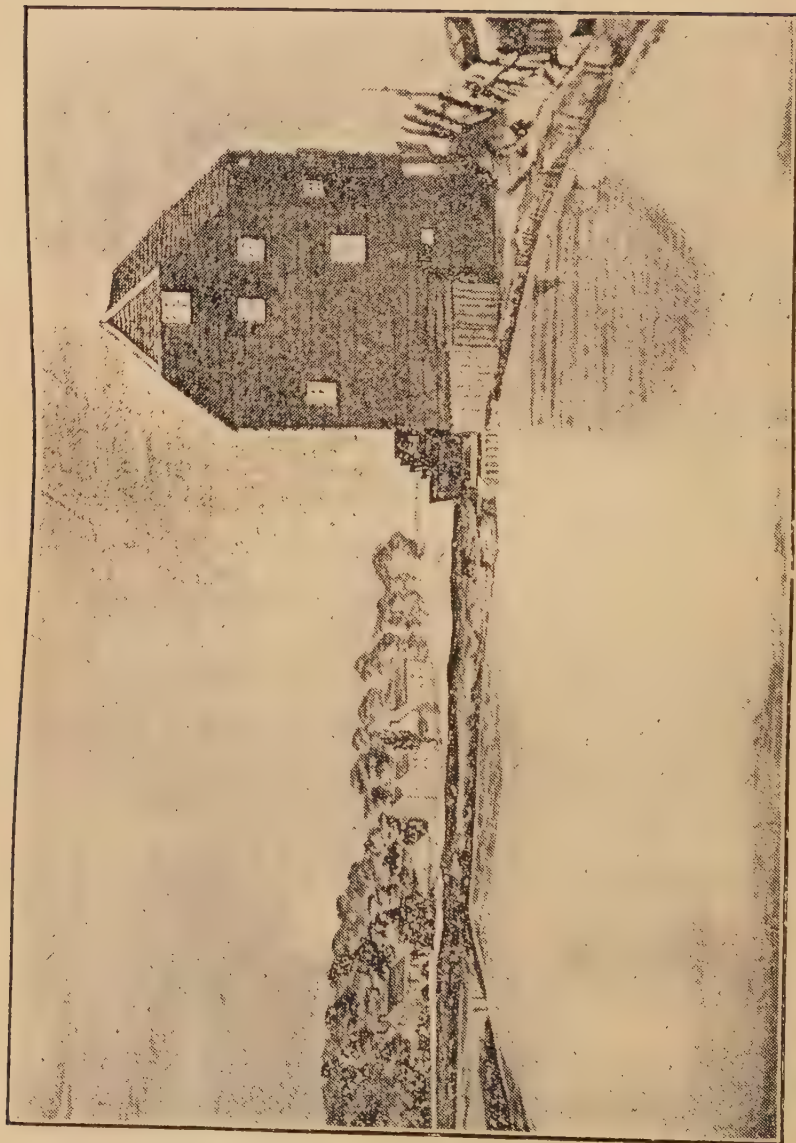
On the 24th June, 1759, the 3rd Town Hall was let to Mr. William Sheppard. There were then existing, apparently, two Town Halls, neither of which was used by the Burgesses.

The Royal family at this time appear to have been frequent visitors in the vicinity, and in 1760, the Duke of York, brother to George III., visited Lymington and was made a freeman.

In the same year 24 French prisoners coming to Lymington with passes were relieved.

In the years 1758—60, a considerable body of troops were quartered at Lymington.

On or about August, 1759, General James Wolfe spent his last night in England at the house of his cousin Mr. James Burcher (whose grave may be seen in Lymington Churchyard). On the following morning he stepped into the long boat



THE OLD MILL. Standing on the site of the Lymington Railway Station. (Demolished about 1857)

From a Photograph of a Painting in possession of Miss Badcock.

which conveyed him to the frigate which was waiting for him in the Solent, and took his last leave of England. (a).

In 1760, the South Battalion of the Hampshire Militia had Mr. Edward Gibbon, afterwards M.P. for Lymington, as Captain and Sir Thomas Worsley (whose family occupied Pylewell House for many years) as Lieut.-Colonel. The Duke of Bolton was then the Lieutenant of the County.

In 1764, a Masonic Lodge was instituted at the "Nag's Head." (See 10th chapter).

In 1769, Mr. Harry Burrard received a baronetcy.

About the year 1776, a chap-book was published entitled "The Hampshire Murderers" giving an account of the methods of the spirit smugglers who carried on their trade in the New Forest. At Lymington (the book relates) a troop of bandits took possession of Ambrose Cave or Hole, and carried on not only smuggling, but wholesale burglary. The whole country was plundered. The soldiers were at last called out, the men tracked, and the cave entered. Booty to an enormous extent was found; the Captain turned King's evidence, and confessed that he had murdered upwards of thirty people. The Author of "The New Forest" (Wise), from which book the above paragraph is taken, goes on to say that, as recently as 1830, every labourer was either a smuggler or a poacher. No doubt the creeks and marshes of Lymington, and the adjacent woods of the New Forest, gave great facilities for smuggling. It is proper to say here that the author of "The New Forest" seems to point to Milton and Christchurch as the chief smuggling centres; but, as will appear later on, smuggling was very rife at Lymington, and was probably connived, or winked, at by most of the inhabitants. Indeed, at one time, especially after Napoleon's ban on English

trading, smuggling was considered a legitimate trade. Something more on this subject, which shows that even the Magistrates regarded smuggling with complacency, appears later. There is a tradition that the belfry tower of the Church of St. Thomas was used by poachers or smugglers.

In 1777, there was a romantic incident. A young woman, then a serving maid, named Nancy Beere, who had been taken from the Lymington workhouse when a child and adopted by a Mr. and Mrs. Hackman, attracted the attention of the Rev. Thomas Thurlow, who married her in that year, and afterwards became Bishop of Durham, his brother becoming the celebrated Lord Chancellor Thurlow, with a peerage. Nancy's son afterwards succeeded to this peerage, becoming Lord Thurlow.

At this period, according to the Rev. Richard Warner, Lymington was "one of the most cheerful, genteel, and sociable towns in the south of England, with beautiful surroundings, and much resorted to for bathing." "The females of Lymington" (he says) "were almost proverbial for their beauty." Amongst the fashionable visitors to Lymington in 1776 were Sir Joshua Reynolds, Warren Hastings, and innumerable great folk.

In 1781, Edward Gibbon, the author of "The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," was M.P. for Lymington. It was this connection of his with Lymington which was the cause of his looking into the history of the Courtenay family, and making his one and only digression in that history, in order to give a condensed account of it. He had ample material in the book which had been published in 1735 by the Rev. E. Cleaveland, but seems to have misconceived a part of the story. This rather destroys one's faith in this author, always looked upon as so reliable. Mr. Gibbon has recorded how he had Lord North's promise of a seat and, although the list was

full up, "his promise held good." (No doubt Sir Harry Burrard was sufficiently rewarded by the Minister for making the arrangement, preserving the Minister's honour). Of course, the inhabitants of Lymington had nothing to do with the matter.

In 1782, the third Town Hall was pulled down, and the sheds and buildings erected with it were also destroyed (1783) as far as the Market Cross. The materials were used for repairing the Quay.

This is the year in which the artist "Rowlandson" of "Dr. Syntax" fame made his "Tour" to Portsmouth, and, back to London, ostensibly to view the wreck of the "Royal George," but really to make a series of local sketches under that heading. He spent a good deal of his time in Lymington, and stayed at the "Angel" where he seems to have been greatly impressed by the pretty hostess, and her high charges, as the bill shewn in a sketch is of portentous length and his companion looks thunderstruck. Lymington is described as "in a manner insulated by the New Forest . . . yet the active spirit of its inhabitants has by availing itself of the river counteracted the apparent inconveniences of its situation . . . and thrown into it a very considerable degree of wealth." The sketch of a fruit shop in Lymington shows a spacious shop well patronised by visitors. Another sketch shows that the interiors of the Salterns were a great subject of curiosity to the visitors. There is a sketch of "Pitts Deep," an Inn near Hurst Castle celebrated for its brandy—doubtless smuggled. It seems that a Mrs. Beeston was, at this time, the proprietress of "the strengthening sea baths." One gathers from a sketch of the Quay that the trip to the Isle of Wight was taken in sailing "packets," and cattle taken over were hoisted into them by means of cranes. The roads everywhere appear muddy and without footpaths. Vehicles on the roads must have been rare, as when one post-chaise encountered

another it seems to have been an unexpected incident, leading perhaps to a race between rival post boys, as depicted in a sketch. In an excursion to Pylewell a balloon ascent by Vincent Lunardi, "the Apostle of Aerostation" was witnessed. According to the sketches the men of the period were clothed in "cornet," hats worn over wigs, or their own long hair worked into a pigtail, knee breeches, neck-kerchiefs over frilled shirt fronts and coats of various colours; while the ladies were heavily crinolined, wearing large feathered hats over hair dressed very high with ribbons behind, extremely short waists, with little tailed coatees or looped overskirts. The working class women are shewn as wearing a kind of linen sun bonnet with kerchiefs over their shoulders. One gathers, from the sketches, as also from Warner, that Lymington was then a very fashionable resort, but that a trip from London to Lymington was an arduous undertaking, involving much time and preparation. Thus we see Rowlandson in his sketches selecting his horses, planning out the route with the post boy, buying portmanteaus and an outfit, and saying farewell to his housekeeper. The journey by post chaise was, however (in spite of wheels coming off as shewn in a sketch), a great advance upon the journey on horseback as undertaken by Mr. Burrard 37 years before (see chapter 7.)

In 1784 there is an entry of a person having been killed by the "machine." This was the name for the stage coach. Private coaches were extremely rare at this time. Sir Harry Burrard is recorded to have been the only person who kept a coach then, and he used to collect his guests for dinner at times (a not unusual thing) with it.

The following, out of many somewhat prosy records, may be of interest as shewing something of the state of the town in 1785, "Ordered that Mr, John Woodford shall not milk

and fodder his cows in the street, it being a great nuisance." "Ordered that no empty coach, chaise, waggon or cart do stand in the street after sunset." "Thirty-eight persons nominated as Constables."

In 1788, Mr. Charles St. Barbe established the first bank in the town. About a century afterwards the bank was taken over by the Capital and Counties Bank, and subsequently by Lloyds. This was the year in which Gibbon wrote his account of the Courtenay family in the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire."

In 1789, George III., who often used to make excursions on the water from Weymouth on board the frigate commanded by Sir Harry Burrard Neale, who was a great favourite with him, stayed at Lymington (Walhampton).

In that year a lady, who was staying in the town wrote saying she had stayed ten weeks in the town with the front door open day and night, and nothing was stolen (*a*).

In 1790, the Churchwardens made a general inoculation against smallpox, notwithstanding which a considerable outbreak occurred in the following year; but the remedy was worse than the disease, for out of 1,200 people inoculated, 20 died. The first female branch of a "Foresters'" Society was founded in Lymington in this year.

From the time of the breaking out of the French Revolution to the end of the Napoleonic Wars, there were great landings of French emigrants at Lymington, and several regiments, made up from the general body of emigrants, were stationed in the town. The quarters of the Royal (French) Marine commanded by Count d'Hector and numbering 600 men, were at Buckland, at the old Manor House and farm

buildings there. The French artillery camps commanded by Colonel Rochalier, occupied the Malthouse and other buildings in New Lane. French refugee soldiers (known as the "Loyal Emigrants") were quartered in Quadrille Court which derived its name from their favourite game. Other bodies were quartered elsewhere in the town to the number of about 3,000. There were many burials of Frenchmen in the Churchyard.

In 1791, Sir Harry Burrard (first Baronet) died being succeeded by Sir Harry Burrard, his nephew (afterwards Burrard Neale).

On the 13th February, 1792, Mr. William Burcher, first cousin to General Wolfe, died and was buried in Lymington Churchyard.

In 1795, a fleet was assembled off Lymington for the Quiberon expedition, under the command of Admiral Warner. This expedition cleared Lymington, to a great extent, of its French visitors; but Lymington being in a convenient position on the Channel, became a great dépôt for Hanoverian and other corps, the barracks being in Church Lane within the serpentine wall there. The Dutch artillery were quartered in New Lane. Large bodies of Militia were quartered in the town and at Pennington, and a local pike corps was raised. It appears from the Church registers that the following troops were also quartered in the town during this period:—the 16th Regiment of Foot, the 1st Regiment (Royals), 31st Regiment of Foot, Dragoons, and Militia from Lincolnshire, Cornwall, and Surrey. A battery was also erected on the site of the present Golf Links.

In 1795, in consequence of some uncertainty as regards the boundaries of the Borough, a Deed of Confirmation was executed by Mrs. Elizabeth Guitton, then Lady of the Manor of New Lymington, declaring what the true boundaries were,

and containing in the margin a sketch map of the "hundred acres," or Borough, wherein the boundaries are correctly shown. The Deed shows the boundaries to have been the west side of the Churchyard, thence to the west side of Church Lane, which then (with Rope-Walk Lane) extended south, and then east, in almost a straight line, past the south end of Captain's Row to the river. From the west side of the Church the line ran due north, then turned east, leaving the old tithe barn just outside, and embraced Bridge Road on its way to the river. The Deed also declared the quit-rent due to the Lord of the Manor in respect of the Borough to have always been £5 per annum. According to the Charter the rent was originally 30/-, and that amount was paid till 1620, when it was raised to £1 12s. 1d. In 1665, Mr. Bulkeley appears to have received the same amount; but in 1668, after an action between him and the Corporation, it appears to have been raised to £3 4s. 2d. In 1686 it was £7 12s. 1d. After the above deed it was £5. It was then raised again to £7 10s., which amount was paid for many years by the Corporation; but on the 15th May, 1915, the rent was redeemed, and a Deed of Release executed.

The state of fear and hurried preparation for an invasion in the early Napoleonic era is well reflected in Lymington by an Army Order issued on the 30th July, 1801, in which the adjacent district is allotted to the local Yeomanry cavalry "for the purpose of effectually driving the cattle from such parts of the coast as may be attacked by the enemy." (Exactly the same kind of orders were issued in 1914 for the eastern coasts in the Great War.)

In 1804, George III., with the Queen, the Princesses and a numerous train, paid a visit to Sir Harry Burrard Neale at Walhampton. Sir Harry was a great favourite with the Royal family, as well as a popular idol, and the King had made previous visits to him in 1789 and 1801. His Majesty

held a reception at Lymington Town Hall and paraded in the High Street dressed in a green coat with gold buttons, buckskins, and a cocked hat, to the great admiration of the people. He was particularly struck with the appearance of Mr. Tout, the Sergeant-at-Mace, who was dressed in all the insignia of his office, and frequently afterwards enquired about him. According to an entry in the Burial Register, Mr. Tout, however, forgot his dignity and dropped on his knees, exclaiming "I am like a beast before thee." This kind of thing sounds repugnant to modern ears; but even so late as this date the King and the nobility, and landed gentry (including the Burrards) were looked upon almost as gods by the populace, so great was the distance between them.

The contrast between the state of the aboriginal classes, especially factory hands and textile workers, and the well-to-do at this time was indeed terrible everywhere. (a).

In 1805, an Admiralty warrant was received by the Mayor requiring him to impress men for the Navy. This was not necessarily the only instance here of such oppression, and no doubt it was constantly done. Mr. William Lyne, the Town Official, was appointed, with the assistance, of course, of the press-gang, to carry out the warrant, (now in the Town Chest).

In 1813, The Lymington "Sick Man's Friend Society" was instituted. This, and the "Female Friendly Society" established some thirty years afterwards, were the precursors of the existing Friendly Societies.

In 1814, "The New Forest Lodge" of Freemasons was instituted. (See 10th chapter).

On the 21st February, 1818, a Savings Bank called "The Lymington Provident Institution" was established. Thirty

(a) See "English Social Life in the Eighteenth Century," by M. D. George.

years afterwards the number of depositors amounted to 973, and the total amount due to them was £38,565 6s. 8d. The P.O. Savings Bank has since obviated the necessity for such institutions.

In 1819, Thomas Inman came to Lyminster (see 10th chapter).

About 1821, the turnpike gate was removed from Gosport Street immediately north of Cannon Lane. At this time the town pound stood on the Green where the Russian gun now is, and there were three turnpike gates across the roads near that spot. (a).

It is notorious that after the Napoleonic Wars the distress and lawlessness in the country at large was very great, and Lyminster had its share. Some idea of this may be gleaned from "The Correspondence of Robert Southey with Caroline Bowles." (b). In 1823, she writes that at her house at Buckland she was so accustomed to hear the nightly disturbances of smugglers and poachers that when robbers actually broke into her premises at night, she did not notice any unusual noise. Again, writing in the year 1830, she tells us that there was a great deal of rioting, and the magistrates and others assembled in the Town Hall were very much frightened by a mob outside. The extraordinary measure was resorted to of inviting "all the smugglers with their chief captain of this coast" to join with the preventive men to act as a kind of military constabulary, and many special constables were enrolled. Threatening letters were often sent, and there was a travelling mob of about 2,000 in the County who sacked and plundered houses as well as people on the high road. A farmer at Buckland had to give up his threshing machine to the mob, the idea being that the power

(a) Barrey.

(b) For an account of this lady see the Chapter on "The Burrards."

machinery, which was then being introduced, would diminish the demand for labour. (a).

In 1828, "A New Guide to Lymington" was published in which appear the following interesting details. There were then three coaches to London every day, viz., the "Telegraph" and "Independent" at 5 a.m. and the "Royal Mail" at 5.30 p.m. The journey took eleven hours. A light van ran to Salisbury every Monday and Thursday morning at nine. To Christchurch a common carrier conveyed goods and passengers three times a week. To Southampton two stage-waggons went and returned twice a week. To Ringwood once, on Saturday. The Mail coach left the "Angel Hotel." The "Independent" left the "Nag's Head," now the "Londesborough Hotel."

In that year, as appears by a parchment roll, there were 31 Burgesses, only a few of whom were residents. It is interesting to note that the names of the Rev. William Gilpin, the celebrated Vicar of Boldre, and his curate, the hardly less notorious writer, the Rev. Richard Warner, are amongst them. This was probably because Lymington was at one time treated as a part of the parish of Boldre, and the Vicar (as had frequently been done) had claimed the Rectory. There are five Burrards in the list, and it also includes the Rev. William Bond and the Rev. George Rooke (with two other Rookes), both names being those of local landowners.

In 1828, the old established timber yard (now Travis and Arnold's) was sold in consequence of the death of the owner Mr. R. Eldridge and taken over by Mr. Philip Blake, a son of John Blake, of "Blake's Dock."

In 1830, an attempt was made to drain the lower end of the town, and a small sewer was put in which drained Captain's Row (South Street) and the parts adjacent to the

(a) This idea and riots were prevalent throughout the country.

Quay. Owing to non-ventilation this proved injurious to health, and cases of typhoid arose from time to time. (In 1928 this drain was "discovered" by the Surveyor in a search to see what caused water to collect in the cellars of adjoining houses.)

In the same year a public dispensary was established, chiefly through the efforts of the Rev. Peyton Blakiston, Vicar.

It is now opportune to finish in this long chapter, and record separately the events of the "thirties" which almost put an end to the domination or reign of the Burrards, though the "Walhampton interest" existed, in a much less degree, for many years afterwards.

CHAPTER IX.

THE EARLY THIRTIES.

"The Reform Bill was conceded, not cheerfully, but from fear." (Hist. of Civ. Buckle).

Prior to the fourth decade of the nineteenth century, the state of civilisation and manners in England was but little superior, and in some respects worse, than in Elizabethan times. The depredations of the press-gangs had only ceased with the Napoleonic wars; the mode of travel was still chiefly on horseback; there was no proper provision for the poor; no good roads; no system of public elementary education; no proper sanitation; and drunkenness, ignorance and poverty were general. "Bread riots" had raged through England in 1830, and there had been a good many minor "revolutions" throughout the country. Even around Lymington agricultural machinery had been burnt, and gangs of rioters ranged through Hampshire. Lymington itself was flooded with the discontented poor. Dwellers in the town were but too often smugglers and poachers (*a*) by night, or beggars by day, and general discontent ruled supreme. The inhabitants had long felt themselves enslaved and oppressed because, although they were supposed to be represented in Parliament, they had no voice in electing their representatives. This was the condition of affairs in Lymington when the news arrived of a new Reform Bill which, in some hardly understood way, was to bring to them a "new heaven and a new earth." Evidence of its coming was afforded in 1832 by the visit of the Commissioners for the new Parliamentary boundary, who came to take evidence of what was needed for its revision. If any of the intelligent out-dwellers had derived any hope from the result of this visitation they were, however, doomed

(*a*) See Miss Caroline Bowles' "Correspondence with Southey."

to disappointment. The chief witness was Sir Harry Burrard Neale, and it was well-known to the Commissioners that the two sitting members were his nominees. They listened to him with deference, and courteously adopted his suggestion that the only enlargement should be the addition of that portion of Walhampton which was contiguous with his own estate. There were then 31 Burgesses, who alone had voting power, and of this number only 9 were resident in the town. It was no wonder that, with the spread of new ideas, many in Lymington welcomed reform, and no doubt all would have done so if they had fully appreciated its meaning, or had not thought it would injure Sir Harry Burrard Neale whose fame and glory were, in some degree, reflected on themselves, and who was personally popular.

After the Parliamentary election of 30th April, 1831, when the Burgesses returned Mr. George Burrard and Mr. W. A. Mackinnon as members for the Borough, one, Captain John Blakiston, and his brother, the Rev. Peyton Blakiston, Curate of Lymington, together with their partisans, began to flood the town with patriotic literature in favour of the Reform Bill, and a committee of "Friends of Reform" was formed, with Captain Blakiston as chairman. These broadsheets (for such they were) called forth an equal number of counterblasts from the opposite or re-actionary party. When it became known that a Mr. Thomas Hyde Villiers was in the field as an independent candidate, and there were rumours of other candidates coming forward, these Cato-like pronouncements were interspersed, and fairly overwhelmed, with a flood of broadsheets containing political lampoons, which lasted for two or three years, and the like of which Lymington has never seen before or since. Half the residents in the town turned political writers, and the printers were kept busy with the publication of squibs of all kinds which heaped vituperation, not only upon the candidates and the sitting

members, but on everyone who was at all in the public (i.e., in the Lymingtonian) eye. (a). These took the form of comic rhymes, mock auction bills, circus programmes, prospectuses, wood-cuts, dialogues, letters, series of questions, parodies of Shakespeare and other classic writers, in which, in every case, the writer's party were held to be all that was noble and patriotic, and their opponents all that was vile. There must have been hundreds of these in this short period.

As specimens of the type of virulence displayed, although they were extremely varied in character, the following extracts from two of these lampoons must suffice, as to set out all such of these crude efforts as are available would be to fill a volume.

"The Hypocrite Unmasked!!! Independent but insulted Electors (b) of Lymington! Thomas Hyde Villiers the raving abuser of West India Proprietors, and virulent declaimer against Colonial Slavery is deriving a considerable income from Slave Labour! Yes, Villiers the Tory apostate, Villiers the Placeman, Villiers the supporter of Gross Jobs is the agent for the slave colony of Berbire, and a hired supporter of that system which he so hypocritically denounced!!! Independent Electors! Let Mawworm, Midstream, Puff-puff Fumigant, and others of the Nine (c) continue to spout by the hour against local slavery; but I defy them to prove etc., etc., One of the Insulted."

The following effusion is also on behalf of the Reforming party:—

"Notice. Public Exhibition of the Humguffin Raree Show! The Inhabitants of Lymington are respectively

- (a) Mr. James Brown the Town Clerk, for instance, was frequently called "the brown rat" ("rat" being the current term for a person of vile mercenary motives), and the town itself was called "Ratborough" after him. And see Note under Town Clerks.
- (b) This was after the Act was passed. Before that the customary style of address was "Inhabitant Householders."
- (c) Supporters of Mr. Villiers and the Reform Party, i.e. "the Friends of Reform." In the caricature representing the stranding of a ship carrying his party on Lymington mudflats (one of which is displayed in the Town Hall) the ship is named "The Nine Friends."

informed that the two principal Hunguffs, Baron Munchausen, of Stoneham and the Great Runaway come to Town (both of whom are recently drawn from the side pocket of the Duke of Wellington and sent here to exhibit their great and marvellous powers in the science of Humbug!!! and Gull catching!!!) will enter the town to-morrow morning at half-past ten o'clock on their way to Hungry Hall to the Hole and Corner Meeting at the Angel Inn by the man "entirely unconnected with either party!!" They will be attended by a numerous body of the Aristocratic Excrescences of this Neighbourhood in their different characters of Intimidators, Wheedlers, Diddlers, Feeders, etc., besides a regular Mob of the Minors consisting of Slaves, Touts, Swillers, Spongers, Rats, and Dogs for dirty work. They will likewise be attended by a Band of Music. The principal part of this *public* exhibition will be held in *private*. . . . By Order of the Mayor no dogs will be allowed in the streets during this imposing exhibition."

It is thought that a wood cut representing the Devil and Bribery carrying a candidate with rhymes underneath, (two of which are set out below) belongs to this period. If so, it would be the only instance which can be found vilifying Sir Harry Burrard Neale. The two verses are as follows :—

"Here's a man sent down to a Corporate Town,
In hopes to be newly elected,
By his prodigal Show you may easily Know,
To the Court he is truly affected.

He 'as a Knave by the hand who has power to command
All the votes in the Corporation ;*
Shoves a sum in his pocket. The Devil says "Take it"—
'Tis all for the good of the Nation."

Considering the number of writers who took part in this paper war, and their self-confidence, an elector who wrote a long (* Query, Sir Harry Burrard Neale)—or it might be George, afterwards Sir George Burrard, to whom Sir Harry had left the business of the Corporation.

series of rhymes by way of lampoon was not far wrong when he said in his first verse :—

" In Lymington Borough this Bill of Reform
Hath roused up a contest unusual and warm.
Each elector declares he will have his own member
As each by self-interest is moved, you'll remember."

It is somewhat admirable that during all this turmoil Sir Harry Burrard Neale, the late proprietor of the two seats, was very little assailed, and we see him, in the light of the election literature, as an Olympian, entering into no controversy, but occasionally casting forth a placard by way of oracle, sure of his dignity, of his popularity, of his character, and, as will be seen later, of his seat. Even the most virulent of his opponents (unless the verses under the wood-cut previously mentioned refer to him) seems to have made a kind of reservation for his person and character.

Speaking broadly of the principles of the two parties in the Borough, the Reformers appear to have anticipated a new paradise through the exercise of their votes (we, in these days, know better), and the Burgess party to have dreaded serious consequences from disturbing the old order of things, and to have regarded the advocates of Reform, having the late riots in their minds, as irresponsible revolutionists. (a)

In the midst of the excitement Captain Blakiston, as chairman of the Reform party, issued a broadcast invitation to "all men of the labouring class" in Lymington to attend a public dinner on the 7th August, 1831 ("all present to provide themselves with a plate, knife and fork, and a cup") as a festival to celebrate the Reform Act. Subscriptions amounting to £237 14s. 6d. were rapidly raised by the Reform party, and, in spite of protests from Sir Harry Burrard Neale (who in

(a) Miss Bowles writes "The High Street is invaded by a little knot of fierce Radicals who have set the place in flame to canvas at this time against the next election. It is an awful crisis . . . broke open the Church this morning to ring the bells, in spite of the Churchwardens. Two dissenting ministers flaming orators."

consequence was called "his Imperial Majesty the King of Lymington" in a squib), the "Reform Festival," consisting of a procession headed by a "band of music," and a dinner with appropriate toasts, duly took place in the field now occupied by Emsworth Road, off New Street. Another dinner for Reformers was also held, shortly afterwards, at the "Angel." The other party retaliated by getting up a subscription for the poor (to which £224 11s. was contributed) and condemning party feeling.

On the 15th November, Mr. Villiers, feeling he had no chance, gave notice resigning his candidature, ostensibly on the ground that Mr. Stewart had been brought in by the Burgess party, after it had been allowed to go forth that Sir Harry Burrard Neale would only attempt to retain one out of the two seats which still remained to the Borough. Soon afterwards he was adopted as a candidate at Falmouth, whereupon Captain Blakiston gave notice that he would stand as the Reform candidate. There were thus three candidates in the field: Captain Blakiston, Mr. Stewart and Sir Harry, who had decided on this occasion (by arrangement with Mr. Mackinnon) to stand himself. It should be noted that in the previous August an offer had been made to and accepted by Sir Harry Burrard Neale of the chief naval command at Portsmouth; but Sir Harry, never thinking that the two things might be incompatible, or thinking he might have both offices, went on with his election campaign.

At length the fateful time arrived, and on the 11th and 12th December, 1832, the new electors of the Borough made their first election (a) of members under the Reform Act, the agent for Captain Blakiston having previously demanded a poll at a "Hall," when by a show of hands Sir Harry Burrard Neale and Mr. John Stewart had been declared elected. The

(a) The original polling book is in the Town Hall.

poll commenced at 9 a.m. on the 11th inst., and ended at 4 p.m. The following day the polling was resumed at 8 a.m. and ended at 12 noon for the following reason:—Captain Blakiston then declared to the Mayor (the returning officer) that he declined to contest the election further, whereupon the Mayor proclaimed that at 1 o'clock he would proceed to declare the state of the poll. At 1 o'clock accordingly the result was declared as follows:—

Sir Harry Burrard Neale	...	158.
John Stewart	...	128.
John Blakiston	..	77.

Captain Blakiston took his defeat very badly and complained of unfair treatment. In the evening there was something nearly approaching a riot, and a demonstration made against the assembled magistrates, who in consequence were very much alarmed, and called out many of the inhabitants as special constables.

Captain Blakiston seems to have been very unpopular with the victorious section, and according to the unchivalrous manner of the times, the caricature before-mentioned was made of him and his party stranded on the mud in Lymington River; whilst his brother, the Rev. P. Blakiston, was represented as seated in "Jack-in-the-Basket." There does not appear to have been anything beyond a kind of jeering humour in this caricature; but the latter gentleman was so much hurt about it, and the squibs which had been levelled against him, that he issued a broadsheet denying that he had had anything to do with political manœuvring, and even referred to the matter in a sermon. Shortly afterwards he resigned the ministry. He appears, really, to have been a most estimable man, but too sensitive for the times.

With regard to Sir Harry Burrard Neale, after he had been elected, he was so imprudent in his own interests, as to take

a leading part in supporting the candidature of a Mr. Compton for the County, in consequence of which (so Colonel Burrard says) (a) Lord Palmerston was defeated. After this Sir Harry received a letter from Sir James Graham of the Admiralty, repeating his previous offer of the command at Portsmouth, but on condition that he gave up his seat, saying that "adequate discharge of the double duty was impossible." Sir Harry treated this in his usual Olympian manner by lofty arguments; but eventually resolved to retain his seat, and give up the appointment. (Colonel Burrard in his "Annals" dilates somewhat on the bad treatment meted out to him, though this is a matter on which there may be divers opinions). For this conduct he was presented with a congratulatory address signed by 121 "Friends and Constituents" on the 31st January, 1833. To conclude this election story it may be mentioned that on the 24th November, 1834, Sir Harry announced his intention not to stand again; whereupon Mr. Mackinnon and Mr. Stewart (both Sir Harry's friends) stated they would be candidates. Mr. James Weld (a well-known Roman Catholic resident) and a Mr. Scott also came forward as candidates; but afterwards decided not to incur the expense of a contest; whereupon at the ensuing election on 6th January, 1835, Messrs. Mackinnon and Stewart were elected without opposition, and continued for many years to represent the Borough, the shadow of the Burrard influence being reflected in the person of Mr. Mackinnon for a further thirty years.

On the 30th December, 1831, in consequence of an anonymous address to "the Inhabitant Householders" and a numerous signed request, a Vestry Meeting was called at which a lighting and watering system was inaugurated under 11 Geo. IV. c. 27.

(a) "Annals of Walhampton."

It was about this time that lands acquired by the Bishop of Winchester (Tomlin) began to be (partly) disposed of as building estates. The "Ten Acres," "Six Acres," and the Close called "The Great Clappers" in or near what is now known as "Highfields" were disposed of in this way.

During 1831, a year fertile in projects for the progress of Lymington, which then stood out as a seat of political influence, a fashionable watering place, and a popular yachting centre, many of the principal inhabitants, including the Rev. P. Blakiston and Mr. Grove (the pushful, imaginative man of the time) joined together, partly in consequence of the Act above referred to, in subscribing a sum of £3,000 to start gas works. On Tuesday, 14th February, 1832, the subscribers met together, when Mr. John Beckley proposed, and Dr. Towsey seconded, that a joint Stock Company be formed under the style of the "Lymington Gas and Coke Company" "of the present and future subscribers to that object," and "that the present capital be £3,000." This was the formal inauguration of the Company which had already obtained promises of the capital and built its works. There were 72 subscribers, all local, and they took from one to four £25 shares each, the total amounting to the £3,000 required. (a). On the 17th day of the same month they offered to supply "the parish" of Lymington with gas, an offer which was subsequently accepted. On the 21st May, 1832, a resolution was passed by the Burgesses permitting the Gas Company to "break up part of the highway or street of this town for laying down gas pipes, and other purposes connected with lighting the said town." In the same year "all the iron columns for the public gas lamps that now align the streets of Lymington" were presented to the town by Sir Harry Burrard Neale, and George Burrard, Esq., presented the lamps, whereupon an iron column (supporting a gas lamp) with an

(a) The capital is now £25,000.

inscription on a square iron pedestal, which still stands, was erected by subscription, commemorating the gift. This column was first erected opposite the Town Hall, but was afterwards removed to a site opposite the Church. It seems that Lymington was about 25 years behind London in gas lighting; but this was not so bad for a small country town, especially considering how the new illuminant was ridiculed for years after London had been lighted, even by such men as Lord Byron and Sir Walter Scott (*α*). There were in Lymington itself many local squibs written about gas, and it is evident from the Minutes of the Gas Company's books that many people had somewhat hazy ideas as to what the illuminant really was.

In 1831, Viscount Courtenay was raised to the peerage as Earl of Devon.

On the 20th August, 1833, in consequence of an Act passed in that year "to enable elections held on the Lord's Day, to be held on the preceeding Saturday or following Monday," it was resolved that the time honoured custom of electing the Mayor on the Sunday after the feast of St. Matthew should be altered, so that the election might take place on the following Monday. This was not for long, however, as no sooner did the inhabitants get over the turmoil of the Reform Act than their minds were distracted with the new Municipal Reform Bill (passed in 1835), which, besides other, as then considered, new-fangled notions, altered the day to the 9th November.

About 1832, a literary society was set on foot which became dormant after the lapse of about two years. It was, however,

(*α*) Sir Walter wrote that there was "a madman proposing to light London with smoke." There was a general idea that the pipes would be hot and cause fires. Byron wrote (amongst other verses) :—

"What varied wonders tempt us as they pass;
The cow-pox, tractors, galvinism, and gas
In turns appear to make the vulgar stare
'Till the swol'n bubble bursts—and all is air."

resumed in 1846, when the society purchased the commodious building in New Street (then called New Lane), formerly used as a theatre (principally for the delectation of the military officers stationed in Lymington for many years), and made the necessary alterations to render it suitable for their purpose. The building, or rather the new building erected on its site, is still known as the "Literary Institute," and some further account of this will be given in the next chapter.

There were baths at Lymington from time immemorial. To maintain and raise its character as a watering place, a public company was formed on the 10th March, 1833, under the name of the "Lymington Bath and Improvement Company," having for its objects the erection of more commodious baths, the enclosure of a considerable tract of mudland, and the improving of the approaches to the bathing establishment. For this purpose a sum of nearly £6,000 was raised by £25 shares and donations. The main building was designed by Mr. William Bartlett, of Lymington, and the machinery, fixed under the direction of Mr. John Silvester, civil engineer, afforded every convenience for hot, cold, or vapour bathing, one wing being appointed to the use of ladies, the other for gentlemen. The large circular room on the upper floor was used for social gatherings. At the western extremity were the large swimming baths. The outside grounds were used for archery and other sports. A few years after its establishment, Lymington having ceased to be fashionable, the Company got into financial difficulties, from which it was rescued for a time by the liberality of Lymington's representatives in Parliament, who contributed two or three thousand pounds. This help was, however, of only temporary value, and the Baths were finally sold for as many hundreds as they cost thousands of pounds, to Mr. G. Inman about 1855. Messrs. Inman and Co., Ltd., leased the baths to another Company (the Lymington Sea Baths

Company) on the 25th December, 1886. The Inmans' property was afterwards sold and the baths eventually became the property of a Mr. A. E. Spender. There was afterwards an auction sale of the baths in London in 1902, when the late Mr. T. J. D. Rawlins, of Lymington, became the purchaser. The swimming baths here are still noted as being perhaps the largest on the south coast. In 1929 the baths were taken over by the Corporation.

It is an interesting fact that having acquired the materials of the Town Hall, demolished in 1858, Mr. Inman re-erected the building and the old "shambles" on the site of the baths, and they are still to be seen there. The "eighteen stone pillars" were lying there for many years; but are now set up in the garden at South Hayes.

In 1832, the Mr. Richard Andrew Grove, before-mentioned as a promoter of the gas works, propounded a scheme for the erection of a suspension bridge and causeway which he had designed and which was to cross the river in a line with High Street and Quay Hill. He issued two "addresses to the public" in which he stated his objects to be "to remove all obstructions to an uninterrupted intercourse between the town and a highly respectable (a) portion of the neighbourhood (Walhampton) and thereby relieve the inhabitants of a tax exceeding £1,000 a year (b); the bridge to extend over the centre of the river 300 feet. A solid causeway faced with stone, and surmounted with a parapet to form an abutment at each end of the bridge. The bridge and causeway to be 26 feet wide, including two pathways. The roadway of the bridge to be seven feet above high water. The whole new road, including the bridge from the top of Quay Hill to the road upon the east of Mr. Good's marsh, to be 1,350 feet.

(a) In the course of years this word has somewhat altered its meaning.

(b) It is very much more now. The charge for a motor car over the bridge is 6d.

Total estimate of the bridge and canseway agreeably to the above design, £6,000. Estimate of the property necessary to be purchased for forming the approaches to the bridge, £3,000." The projector then set out the advantages to be derived in an address similar to what we should now call a prospectus, on which was a picture of the proposed bridge, which would certainly have been a very fine structure. He was able to show a long list of voluntary subscribers to the extent of £2,000, including the Duchess of Kent, the Princess Victoria (afterwards Queen) two dukes, an earl, a baron, seven baronets, the Lord Chief Justice Tindal and the Bishop of Winchester. The names also included most of the local gentry, amongst others being those of Colonel Shedden, Captain Blakiston, the Rev. P. Blakiston, J. Pulteney, Joseph Weld and George Burrard. In his addresses Mr. Grove alluded to "the plans in contemplation for the erection of new and elegant baths and lighting the town with gas," and to the fact that "many of the yachts belonging to the Royal Yacht Club are constantly lying there (in the river) in the summer." If the above plan had been carried through, Lymington would have presented a very different appearance to-day, and no doubt Walhampton would have been included in the Borough. The plans failed for some reason, probably on account of unforeseen legal difficulties. One prophecy of Mr. Grove's contained in his address has been fulfilled, viz., that in a short time the river would be incapable of affording passage to vessels of more than 100 tons burden in consequence of the accumulation of mud.

This gentleman, in 1832, published his "Views of the Principal Seats and Scenery in the neighbourhood of Lymington." This work is now much sought after, and a copy at a recent auction sale fetched £5 15s.

On May 25th, 1834, a subscription list was opened for a water cart, and a resolution passed to purchase "a London

Water Cart on the most approved plan" to water the streets. So accustomed had the inhabitants been recently to lampooning everything that even this "harmless, necessary" article did not escape the humourous cudgel. A pretended prospectus for "A Dustlaying and General Improvement Company in consequence of the Dust which has been kicked up in Lymington for some time past" was issued, in which the inhabitants were promised "an ample supply of Adam's Pail Ale at the Town Hall Pump"; also "a display of fireworks at the Gas Works from water alone, exhibiting the marvellous powers of the Chemical Art." The fact was that both the inhabitants, and their governing authorities, were for many years strongly opposed to modern improvements, with regard to which they had very hazy notions.

In this year for some time before and after there was a very efficient yeomanry cavalry troop at Lymington. Mr. G. St. Barbe was granted a commission as cornet in this troop by the Duke of Wellington on 6th June, 1834.

On the 31st March, 1835, the Church clock was obtained at a cost of £135. In the following April a Memorial was presented to the Treasury praying that Lymington might be made a bonded port; but nothing came of it.

On the 18th July, 1835, the Corporation passed a resolution approving the exchange of "Holme's Mead" (then let to Colonel Shedden, who at one time thought of contesting a seat in Parliament at Lymington, for £8 a year) for about 3 acres of land of the Colonel's lying east of Pennington House, and thus this historic possession passed away from the town.

In 1836, a new poor house was built at Lymington to accommodate the union of adjoining parishes, in lieu of the existing Lymington poor house. Mr. S. Kempthorne was the architect.

On the 26th December, 1835, the new Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, having come into force, the first poll for the election of twelve Councillors, in lieu of the old Burgesses, was held. There were no less than forty-two candidates eager to be elected to the new honours ; but the following were elected :—

Charles St. Barbe	100 votes.
Edward Hicks	100 „
James Munro	96 „
R. L. Rice	94 „
William Colborne	84 „
James Corbin	82 „
Richard Galpin	82 „
Isaac Withers	78 „
Charles Fluder	71 „
Thomas Gatrell	70 „
Joseph Keats	70 „
Henry Figg	60 „

Five of the candidates only had one vote (presumably their own), four had two votes, and several others had three.

The first Aldermen elected by the new Council were Edward Hicks, James Munro, Richard Galpin and Isaac Withers ; the two last to go out of office in 1838.

At a subsequent meeting on the 1st January, 1836, Mr. St. Barbe was elected Mayor, quarterly meetings fixed, and a Watch Committee appointed. Thus disappeared the old and arose the new régime. There was not, however, at that time very much more work to do than the Burgesses had, and the records continue principally to record the Mayor's accounts and elections of members ; other records being very sparse.

That there was nothing but good feeling towards the old Burgesses appears from a record of the first quarterly

meeting, held on the 29th February, 1836, when the Council thanked the Burgesses for the promptitude with which the Corporation property and the Mayoral accounts had been handed over to them, and plumed themselves upon the fact that "notwithstanding the official income was very limited, the Burgesses had not, up to the time of quitting office, incumbered the Corporation property in any way." A new Corporation seal was ordered, in lieu of the old silver seal purchased in 1669; but they were already provided with a wonderful old silver gilt mace (still used). The only other business done was the insuring of the Corporation property against fire, the letting of the river fishing and the preparation of a set of bye-laws. The Town Book continued in use till 1858, when the present series of Minute Books was commenced. It should be observed that until after 1835 the town books, which are such a unique possession, gave no real record of what was done in the Halls, beyond copies of the Mayor's accounts (which were sometimes elaborately written and texted in later times), occasional bye-laws or orders, notes of the dues and tolls payable, lists of tradesmen with an occasional entry relating to an offender, forms of the oaths taken by the Mayor and Burgesses, and memoranda of the elections of Burgesses, but were often used as polling books. One looks in vain for any record of town happenings, and such clues as are available are mostly only obtainable from items in the Mayor's accounts.

After the Municipal Corporations Act, 1835, had put an end to the jurisdiction of the Court Leet over the constabulary (and all other town matters) a Watch Committee was formed, as stated, and a few details of the time when the Police system was undergoing its great change may be interesting.

At the first meeting of the Watch Committee on 5th February, 1836, Mr. Charles St. Barbe presiding, the other

members present being James Munro, Edward Hicks, Dr. Towsey, William Colborne, and Thomas Gatrell, it was resolved that George Banks and Thomas Bridle "do continue in their office of constables until further arrangements can be made for a more extensive police." On the 23rd February, however, George Banks was discharged, and George Jerome appointed in his place. On the 26th certain police regulations were agreed to in which the chief constable was required to grant bail to persons arrested and make returns in a "bail book"; to report on the conduct of the constables; to prevent disorderly crowds gathering in the evening, and obstructing the highway, particularly on market days (the High Street market was then an important one, spreading out into New Lane), and Sundays; to report on any public house kept open beyond legal hours; to make the constables acquainted with all the inhabitants and premises within the Borough; and to keep a watch upon all suspected persons. On the 13th April, the Committee made their first report to the Secretary of State, pursuant to 5 and 6, William IV. s. 86, from which the following entries are extracted:—The Borough only contained an area of 100 acres. Two constables had been annually appointed at the Court Leet, and the Committee had therefore appointed a like number, under "a respectable officer appointed as Chief and night constable." They considered that this would be a sufficient number until the anticipated enlargement of the Borough when it might "serve as a nucleus for the increase," and "as the whole time of the constables is not occupied in public duties" they had "not yet issued any clothing or paid any salary." On the 12th October, they recommended the Council to pay a salary of £12 to the Sergeant at Mace for his duties as constable, and £10 to George Jerome (afterwards dismissed for drunkenness) and that Thomas Bridle be suspended. (Evidently all the three constables got into disgrace). On the 29th November, the salary of the chief constable was fixed at £12 per annum.

On this date it was reported that 344 vagrants had lodged in the town between the 1st April and 9th November, together with a number of foreign musicians and pedlars. After the passing of the new Police Acts, Captain Harris of the County Police frequently pressed the Corporation to adopt the new system; but for a good many years the Council had been unable to make any arrangements with the County Justices from lack of funds (a). and, indeed, with their income of under £100 a year as derived from tolls, quit-rents, and dues, it was difficult to see how they could, and no doubt the idea of making a rate, if it had occurred to them, would have been obnoxious. It was not until many years afterwards, namely on the 12th November, 1852, that the terms proposed by Captain Harris for the establishment of a day and night police within the Borough were accepted, and the Overseers were ordered to make a rate to help to meet the annual cost which was £150. The Corporation then got their police force settled under the Police Amendment Act by the Quarter Sessions, and the Watch Committee disappeared. Their Minutes are in the Town Chest, and it would appear that while they held office they were very zealous in keeping order, though unfortunate in the character of their constabulary.

On Thursday, the 29th June, 1837, public notice (b) was given by the Mayor requesting the inhabitants to form a procession at the proclamation of Queen Victoria.

The facts recorded in this chapter, however sparse they may be, are sufficient to show that, during the period it covers, there was a general intellectual awakening in Lyminster from the slumber of the ages. This was but a

(a) An instance of this lack of funds is afforded in the Minutes of a Meeting on the 9th November, 1847, when the Town Clerk (Mr. James Brown) applied for an increase of his salary of £25 per annum, and stated that his salary was "rather in proportion to the means of payment than to remuneration for work done."

(b) Two printed copies are preserved in the Town Chest.

local reflection of the state of England in general. From being brutal and ignorant, people were becoming sympathetic and sapient. This state of things, this "tide in the affairs of men," was almost wholly due to the application of steam power to the Press, enabling every man to have his newspaper, and follow the course of events and the flow of ideas. It was through the Press that the ideas of the pioneers of modern civilization got home to the hearts of men, and were impressed upon the Government. Thus we see, during this short period, both Parliamentary and local government reform, a more humane poor law, a National system of education, prison reform, abolition of slavery in the Colonies, emancipation of Roman Catholics, relief to Dissenters, general registration, the protests against ecclesiastical jurisdiction over Wills, the rise of Mechanics and Literary Institutes, the shortening of factory hours, and many another enlightened innovation. It will be seen that Lymington, although at times re-actionary, was either battling with or favouring ideas which soon all men were to adopt. We have seen, for instance, how the reproach of being a slave owner was thrown out at Mr. Villiers, how a Roman Catholic Church was built in Lymington, how a Literary Institution arose, how a National School was started, how there were no more outcries against power machinery, how Friendly Societies arose, how a new poor house was built, how eager men were to take a part in local government, how keen they were to have their votes, and yet how loyal they were to the Burrards, how quickly the idea of lighting the town with gas was carried into effect, and how their sense of oppression and injustice had been aroused.

These few years, indeed, saw the turning point from old ideas to those of "Modern Times."

CHAPTER X.

MODERN TIMES.

“An equal distribution of civil rights to all classes of freeman.”

(*Hallam's Middle Ages*).

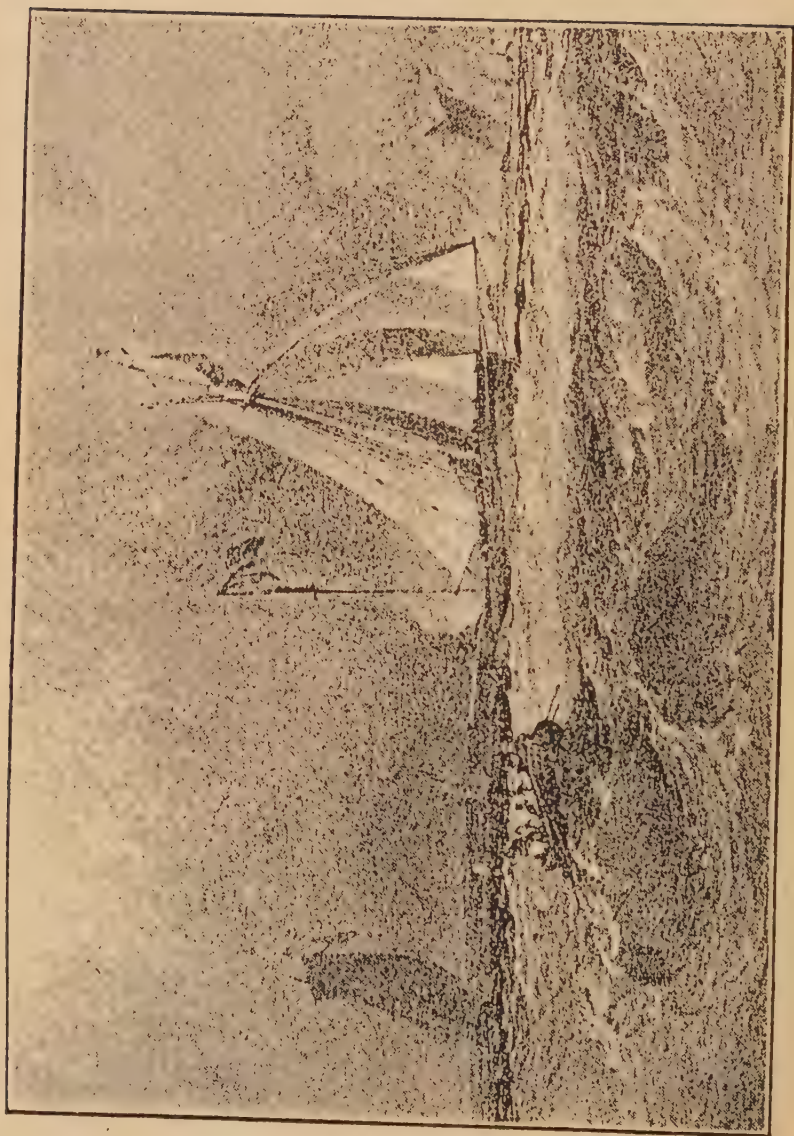
YACHTING. For some years prior to 1820, ship-building in Lymington was confined to trading vessels up to about 60 tons and Revenue Cutters for the Government. After that there came a radical change to yacht-building (a), due to the following circumstances: In 1821, when yachting was a comparatively new sport, the Royal Yacht Squadron (then the Royal Yacht Club) had been founded with about fifty members. Amongst the original members were Messrs. Joseph and James Weld, Colonel Sheddon (he who bought “Holmsmead” from the Corporation), and Mr. G. A. Fullerton, of the “Grove,” Lymington. The last named may be considered as one of the pioneers of yachting, for as early as 1806 he sailed his yacht, “The Zephyr,” outside the Needles, when on one occasion he was nearly captured by a French privateer. Mr. Joseph Weld, the owner of Lulworth Castle, in Dorset, used to spend the six summer months of each year at “Pylewell House,” which he also owned. At the last named place at Pylewell Hard, being himself a skilful designer, he started building yachts, one of them being “The Arrow,” which was still under construction in 1821. He, and his friends above mentioned, made Lymington their rendezvous for yachting, and also attracted

(a) This record of yachts and yacht-building may fairly be said to have been rescued from oblivion, as there is no written or printed material on the subject available, and nearly all the information has been obtained by word of mouth. Amongst the contributors are Miss Alice Inman, Mr. Inman, Mrs. Stote, Mr. F. Collins, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Rawlins, Mr. D. Bran, Mr. House, Captain Dyer, and Mr. G. Harper.

other members of the Club there, so that soon many of their yachts were usually laid up in the Lymington river. Under these circumstances they cast about for a local builder, and their discerning eyes perceived in Mr. Thomas Inman one who had a natural genius for yacht building, and was likely to fulfil all their requirements.

This Thomas Inman had been a boat builder in a small way at Hastings; but in 1819 he sold his business and brought his family (wife, three sons, and three daughters) and belongings in his own sailing boat to Lymington, with the view of starting a similar business there, and when there also turned farmer and timber dealer, having a farm at Vagg's Lane, Hordle. He was then seen by Mr. Weld, and started yacht construction in 1821, his second yacht being "The Arrow" (85) which was turned over to him by that gentleman to complete, and which was launched in that year, and the industry at Pylewell Hard was also eventually transferred to Inman's Yard (which seems to have been the site of a ship-building industry since Charles Guidott sold it in 1688 to John Coombes, ship-builder). Mr. Weld afterwards always remained the best customer of the firm of Inman, and it is related that he spent no less than £30,000 (equal to much more nowadays), on his three famous yachts, "The Arrow," "The Lulworth," and "The Alarm," besides spending £1,200 a year with the firm for upkeep. "The Arrow" was a splendidly built boat, and fifty-eight years afterwards she was still the most formidable cutter afloat. After Thomas Inman had built "The Lulworth," she ("The Arrow") was bought by Mr. T. Chamberlayne, who won with her her last and most famous victory over "The Formosa" in 1879. Amongst her successes were the 1st Gold Cup at Cowes, the King's Cup in 1826, and also in 1850 and 1852, and the "Round the Isle of Wight" Race for 100 guineas in 1850.

"The Lulworth," also designed by Mr. Weld, and built by Thomas Inman; and which cost over £14,000. . . the



THE ALARM.
Winning the Ladies' Challenge Cup at Cowes, Aug. 1830

King's Cup in 1828, and the Ladies' Cup in the same year. The celebrated "Alarm" (193), designed by and built for Mr. Weld by Inman, was launched in 1830, and was the finest example of the large cutter class, and the largest vessel in that class. She won the King's Cup at Cowes in 1830, 1831, 1832, and 1838. Mr. Weld afterwards had her cut in two, and lengthened, and converted into a schooner of 248 tons. She was one of the few English boats to defeat the celebrated "America," which took the Queen's Cup over to the U.S.A. With the "Alarm," besides other triumphs, its owner won, for the third time, the Ladies' Challenge Cup (Royal Yacht Club) in 1890, constituting him the Champion of the Club. So indelibly is the memory of the fame of this vessel impressed on the inhabitants of Lymington that the rising generation and strangers are told with pride about her whenever ship-building is mentioned. An Inn has been named after her, and even in 1928 the Lymington Corporation, casting about for a name for their new fire engine, could think of none better or more worthy than "The Alarm."

After 1820, about two or three large (and many small) yachts were turned out annually from Inman's Yard for local gentry and members of the Yacht Club, and the Port of Lymington became a celebrated port for the registration of large yachts. Some early yachts of Inman's were Colonel Shedden's, "Lord of the Isles" (45) and "Magician" (82); Mr. James Weld (of "Blake's") had the "Julia" (43) and "The Twins" (95), and Mr. Savin (of "Ridgway") had in 1822 "The Corsair" (43), and in 1825 "The Rob Roy" (52).

Thomas Inman retired from business in 1845, and was succeeded by his son George and his brother James, who carried on the business under the style of "G. & J. Inman." The business had then become so extensive that the firm acquired and utilised the whole of the river frontage from the coal yard to the Baths (described in 1832 as "the new and

elegant baths,") together with much land beyond Bath Road, where there was a rope-walk ("Rope-walk House" commemorates this), and to the north of Bath Road; the present Drill Hall in Bath Road, built by George Inman, having been the "mould loft," as it was technically called. The site of the Baths was also used for stores, and it is related that the boundaries of the ground were at one time lined with mounted cannons taken out of yachts and other vessels.

Thomas Inman lived for many years after his retirement. James, a year or two after joining the new firm, became mentally affected, and left the sole proprietorship to George. It is related of James that, though incapable of following the business, he still retained a liking for it, and it was his custom to walk at intervals at Walhampton, marking such trees as he thought suitable for cutting, and the proprietor, though with no intention of selling, permitted him to so indulge his fancy. He lived long after retiring from the business, and at his death left a numerous family, some of his descendants being still in Lymington. George Inman was, of course, a notable and prosperous man in Lymington, buying many properties in the town, which he served in many capacities, becoming Mayor in 1852.

Edwin, the son of George, helped his father in the business, though never actually a partner. He it was who built in 1878 the villa "South Hayes," since acquired and quadrupled in size by the late Mr. T. J. D. Rawlins. George died in 1883 and Edwin in 1885, leaving a sister Alice, who still survives. It may seem surprising that a firm like Inman, who had had riches poured upon them, should have eventually found themselves in the hands of mortgagees, as they did, but the explanation is that during the latter period of his life, George Inman became far too easy-going in business, and the habits of both him and his son were not conducive to success. He also lost heavily on a contract to build "The Dream," for Mr. George Bentinck.

The whole of the Inman estates were sold after the death of Edwin's widow in 1887.

After the death of the Inmans, the business passed successively into the following hands: Calcin Brothers; Watkins; Stote (as Manager for the Mortgagees); Spender Brothers; Ealing, Mellors & Gregg; Stote (again); Lunn Brothers; Courtney & Newhook; George Courtney (1908); and the Berthon Boat Company (Managing Director, H. G. May), 1918.

After the Reform Bill 1867, when Lymington lost its political prestige, it also ceased to be fashionable. It continued, however, to be a good yachting centre, and from 1850 to about 1887 (a period during which Lymington is stated, on good authority, to have been the most important yacht-building centre in England) the output of yachts built annually increased in numbers and tonnage, amongst vessels of world renown being the following:—"St. Ursula" (199) built in 1853 for the Earl of Durham; the "Zoe" (151) for Mr. Hammersley, of Ridgway, Lymington; "Mariquita" (124) in 1858; "Ursuline" (159) and "Rosalind" (98) both built in 1859. In the sixties the chief yachts built were "Noel" (102); "Ylga" (141); "Semina" (90) for Mr. Jameson; "Pilgrim" (141) for the Duke of St. Albans; "Belle," "Reindeer," and "Fenella" all of 77 tons; "Ayacaurora" (127); "Mirage" (Schooner 200) for the Marquis of Ormonde; "Flying Cloud" (Schooner) owned in 1870 by Count Batthyany; and "Eva" (40) for Mr. A. Kavanagh, of Borris House, Co. Ross. This last named gentleman was one of Nature's marvels. Born without arms and legs, he was elected a member of Parliament and Sheriff for Co. Carlow, was a keen shot, especially at duck shooting, of which he was fond; and could even shave himself, write, and drive a four-in-hand, using his mouth and two stumps for the purpose in such a rapid manner that his movements could not easily be followed. He married, and had a family who were all normal.

Mr. Harper, late harbour-master at Lymington, who was his personal attendant, has a testimonial written, and signed by Mr. Kavanagh, whose capabilities (well-known to several people in Lymington) he vouches for and often relates.

In the seventies the most famous yachts built in Lymington were: "Carlotta" (104); "Amarantu" (104); "Australia" (212); "Fortuna" (366) (whose berth in the river is still known as "Fortuna Dock,") for Mr. Adrian Hope; "Florence" (108); "Nore" (108) for Sir George Burrard; "Foam" (164) for Mr. Howard Elkington. Other vessels were "Beatrice," for Earl Somers; "Orion," "Redgauntlet," and "Eva," "Castalia" (240) for Miss Hope, and "Ianira" (220) for Mr. Barclay.

After the eighties Lymington ship building gradually declined, the bulk of the construction passing to Southampton (Camper and Nicholson) Gosport, and Cowes (White). There was still, however, much yachting going on, and a Town Regatta (still an annual event) had been instituted almost at the commencement of yachting, first held at the Quayside and afterwards lower down. In 1885, Captain Dyer came to reside in Lymington (singularly enough in a house built by G. Inman), and soon afterwards he and Major Fox-Roe founded a "Lymington Yacht Club," having its headquarters in what was called the "octagonal room" (really six sided) at the Baths, built by the old Bath Company before G. Inman became the Proprietor. General Sartorius was Commodore, and Major Fox-Roe, Secretary, and so long as these two resided at Lymington, the Club was fairly (and always financially) successful. "The Shark," "Australia," "Pilgrim," "Freelance," "Isabella" (E. R. Badcock), "Paulina" (Fox-Roe), "Archer" (Dyer), "Fortuna," and "Mirage," were some of the most frequently sailed boats at that period, and a cup was raced for five times a year, Captain Dyer having the pleasure in one year, of securing this trophy. After some years the Club was dissolved.

On the 30th January, 1924, "The Lymington River Sailing Club Building Company Ltd." (a) was registered for the purpose of inaugurating and building suitable quarters for a new "Lymington Yacht Club," the chief promoters being Major Cyril Potter, W. I. Whitaker, Esq., Brig.-General Newenham, Captain Sullivan and Francis Collins, Esq. (the first Secretary).

On the 12th May following, the Company acquired a piece of freehold land near the Baths from the Admiralty, who had previously bought it from the Corporation, they having acquired it on the 25th March, 1902, from Mr Spender, after the sale of Inman's estate. On this piece of land, and on another adjoining piece subsequently leased from the Corporation, they built a commodious Club House as their headquarters.

The establishment of this Club, which has now some 400 members, has naturally revived yachting and yacht-building in the town, and the Berthon Boat Company has much improved the conditions of the Yard, in which as many as seventy vessels of all sizes find their winter quarters. This firm has designed and built some forty racing seven-tonners for the "West Solent Restricted Class." Of these about ten are quartered in the Lymington River, thirteen have emigrated to Burnham-on-Crouch, and six to South America.

Other ships turned out subsequently by the firm were the "Polynome" (52) for Mr. Hodgson, of Vicar's Hill "Nefertari" (25) and "Nefertiti" for Mr. W. F. Perkins, of Boldre Bridge House, and the "Estelle" (82) Motor cruiser, besides several of the "X" class, four-ton racers and two six-metre boats, and the "Elaine" (54) for Mr. F. A. Roberts in 1929.

Mr. George Courtney, during his time, built "The Braemar" (50) for Mr. Paxton, and the barge yacht "Four

(a) This Company having served the purpose for which it was intended, was voluntarily wound up on 6th April, 1929.

Marys" (86) for Mr. John Princep, and he and his successors during the war were engaged by the War Office and Admiralty in building fifty-ton drifters, sea-plane hulls, and pontoons.

The River Committee of the Town Council now find some difficulty in meeting the demands for moorings for yachts, and at the time of writing there are some 100 yacht moorings in the river.

RAILWAY. On the 9th November, 1844, a resolution was passed by the Town Council that it would be advantageous to have railway communication with London and the west of England, and that a projected line of railway known as "Castleman's line" would afford these advantages; whilst the line projected by the Southampton and Salisbury Railway would be less advantageous. On the 5th February, 1847, a Bill for making a line from Dorchester to Lyminster was laid before the Council, but nothing came of it. The Mayor then convened a public meeting to consider the intention of the Southampton and Dorchester Railway to have a station at Latchmoor, and the desirability of recommending the Directors to have it at Brockenhurst, and this latter somewhat curious recommendation was unfortunately passed, so that Brockenhurst became the nearest railway station. (a). In August, 1853, after the Brockenhurst station had been acquired by the L. and S.W.R., at a public meeting held at Lyminster, it was resolved "to adopt measures for securing a branch railway from Brockenhurst to this town." As a result of this meeting certain gentlemen met together and formed a Syndicate to promote such a railway, and on the 9th November, 1855, when the project was advanced, a deputation (Messrs. A. Mew and G. St. Barbe) attended a Council Meeting to request the support of the Council. On the 15th January,

(a) That the Council and inhabitants should have been so neglectful of their interests when they had the chance to secure them is incomprehensible.

1856, a draft Bill was produced to, and approved by, the Council. On the 20th March, in order to help forward the Bill, the Mayor sent up the following petition to the House of Commons:—

“This Petition, etc., humbly sheweth:—

Your Petitioners have learnt that a Bill has been introduced into your Honourable House for making a railway from Lymington, in the County of Southampton, to the London and South Western Railway at Brockenhurst in the same County, to be called the Lymington Railway, with a landing place at Lymington aforesaid, and for other purposes. That such a railway will in the opinion and judgment of this Council be very beneficial to the mercantile, shipping, and trading interest of this town; will afford great and much desired accommodation to the public generally, and especially in extension of the goods and passenger traffic between this town and the western parts of the Isle of Wight.

Wherefore your Petitioners humbly pray that the said Bill may be passed into law.”

The Act (a) was passed in July, 1856, and the incorporated subscribers were Messrs. E. Hicks, C. Fluder, Robert Rice, G. F. St. Barbe, Alfred Mew, William Squire, Philip Blake, George Inman, C. W. Escourt, and Richard Sharp. The capital was £21,000, in 2,100 shares of £10 each. Powers were taken to purchase the bridge, the town quay, and the ferry. The Company purchased the bridge, and received powers to charge tolls not exceeding those set out in a Schedule.

An Act was subsequently passed in 1856, authorising the Lymington Railway Company to acquire the ferry across the

(a) 19 & 20 Vic., c. 71, now out of print.

Lymington river. The Act recites that the ferry was very ancient, and it is not known how and when the first proprietors obtained their monopoly (a). A monopoly there is, however, and the Act recognised this by giving power to the Company to prevent any other than the regular ferry boats plying at the landing places. As is generally known, the old ferry was never taken over by the Company, but was sold by the proprietors at a public auction to Mr. Badcock, in whose family it has remained ever since.

On 12th July, 1858, the Lymington Railway Company opened their line to Brockenhurst, and a printed notice was issued as follows:—"The Lymington Railway is now open for passenger traffic, and until further notice will run as follows: (here follows a time table from which it appears that the journey to London *via* Brockenhurst occupied from four to five hours). A further announcement was made that the omnibuses between Lymington and Brockenhurst would cease to run from that date.

The site on which the Town Railway Station was erected was formerly a marsh on which, subsequently, a saltern was made. This saltern was south of Ampress dock, and is so delineated on a map of Lymington, published in 1841, as to look like a dock itself, and the works extended as far as the causeway. A mill stood near which is still commemorated in a local place name.

We are enabled to trace the history of this site from a much earlier period, for, in an old deed, still in existence, and dated the 24th June, 1661, this land (if it may be so called) was conveyed by Dame Mary Wandsford, of Romsey, Widow, and Francis Wandsford (descendants of the two daughters and co-heiresses of Robert Pamplin) to Thomas Bolman, of

(a) There is a tradition that Charles II. granted the ferry to one of his mistresses.

Lymington, Baker, on a lease for 2,000 years at a rental of one penny per annum by the following quaint description, viz. : "All that plot of sandy, sholpy, clayey, flattey, sotty, muddy, and sea oazie ground, or by whatsoever other name or names the same is or may be called, containing by estimation five acres situate in the Parish of Lymington," etc.

It would almost appear as if the solicitor or scrivener who drafted this deed was disgusted with the property, and, at all events he was gifted with some imagination.

The Company continued to operate until their line was taken over by the L. & S.W.Co. on 21st March, 1879, when the bridge, with the right of taking tolls, was also acquired by them. This bridge replaced the bridge or dam previously referred to as having been built by Captain Cross, the successor to Robert Pamplin. At the time the bridge was taken over by the L. and S.W.R. it was leased to a Mr. G. J. R. Goodden a man who subsequently acquired a certain notoriety by refusing to allow the late King Edward, accompanied by the late Lord Montagu, to pass over without payment of toll. A subsequent extension of the Lymington Railway was made in 1884 from the present Town Station to what is known as the Pier Station on the far side of the river. The railway embankment carrying the line passed across the entrance to Blake's Dock, an old commercial convenience, which then ceased to exist.

FERRY. Referring again to the ancient ferry, it should be mentioned that the present landing place opposite to the Quay is comparatively recent. Previously the landing place was opposite the path leading to Burrard's Memorial, and the change came about in this way. A Major Jobling had built what is now the "Lymington Model Laundry;" but which was built by him, and subsequently used, as a theatre and place of entertainment. For the convenience of the people attending the theatre (it was somewhat odd to build a theatre

there), he instituted another ferry with a landing place near by. Subsequently, however, he found that he was infringing upon the rights of the ancient ferry proprietors, who then took over the Major's ferry and the landing place, which is that now in use. A hundred years ago the proprietors had another ferry from the "Harlequin" Inn, near Flushard's estate, to Blake's Dock (a). This dock, together with North-over's Quay, Mrs. Butler's Quay and the St. Ambrose Dock have long ago become things of the past.

SALTERNS. The year 1845 saw the end of the salt works (with one exception, which continued for some 20 years after,) which had existed certainly for 700 years, and probably for a much longer period. The immediate cause of this was the general building of railways, and the introduction of salt by rail from Cheshire which could be sold at a much cheaper rate than that at which it could be produced at Lymington. A proposal to revive the industry was made to the Council on the 9th December, 1845, when an improved process for making salt was submitted. Nothing, however, came of it. Thus the staple trade was lost, and the decline of Lymington as a commercial town was heralded. At their most prosperous time (1750) as much as £60,000 was paid by the saltern proprietors in the one year as duty, the duty varying from 5/- to 15/- per bushel. The quantity of salt, which was of a fine quality, and much in request, was sometimes 5,000 tons per annum, of which some 1,800 tons went to America, 300 tons to Newfoundland, 300 tons to Holland and the Baltic, 200 tons to the Channel Islands, 140 to make Epsom and Glauber salts, and 3,200 tons (more or less) paid duty for home

- (a) This Dock was built by one of the family of that name, who resided at Lymington from 1627 to 1850. The house now occupied by Major Potter, and formerly by Mr. Joseph Weld (and in 1770 used as a public house, and called "The Sloop," proprietor, John Johnson), and variously known as "Blake's Lodge," "The Lodge," and "Blakes," was named after the Dock. The Lymington progenitor of the large families of Blakes, who pervaded the town for 200 years, was a blacksmith. (Com. by Mr. P. H. Blake, 4 Knock Road, Belfast).

consumption. The loss was acutely felt, a large number of boatmen, riding officers, clerks and workmen being thrown out of employment. The shipping trade was also affected, as vessels which formerly took out salt, together with cloth made by Somerset manufacturers, and brought back the salt fish, timber, and pipe staves of Newfoundland and the Plantations, could no longer find outward cargoes.

The owners of the salt works had long been struggling against their adverse fortune, having had to resort to the local bankers Messrs. St. Barbe, who, in the end, had nearly all of them in their hands. Then, by degrees, "the marshes were gradually levelled for grazing purposes, houses removed, ponds filled up, and the neglected canals which had been made between the salterns for transit purposes began to resemble shallow creeks." In 1803 there were 40 salterns, but only two or three were left in 1853. The remains of the salt industry finally disappeared in 1868. In 1871, there were still two salterns standing and two windmills; but the latter were demolished in 1873. Traces of the salterns yet remain in the embanked lands on the marshes, in the swimming baths (King's Saltern), and in other indications by which many old inhabitants can still distinguish the sites. The author of "Old Times Re-visited" mentions a small creature (this will be interesting to Naturalists,) known as the Lymington Brine Shrimp (*Artemisus salinus Branchiopoda*), which lived only in the brine tanks where no other creature could have existed, and was only found elsewhere in some salt lakes of Siberia. It was supposed, by the salt-makers, to cause a clearing of the brine, and was carefully transported for this purpose.

The owner of the largest saltern at this time was Roger Beere, Merchant, who was probably a descendant of the Roger Beere, Merchant, who was summoned in 1716 before the Court of Exchequer for evading the customs dues due to Southampton, and appears in the Town

Books in 1708 as a free Burgess, and whose father was probably the Edward Beere who was Mayor in 1690.

GOLF LINKS. This mention of Lymington's principal industry leads one to survey the scene of other past industries, viz., the Golf Links, the site of which is very interesting. Half encircled by a creek issuing from the river estuary it is generally called marsh land, and so it was until recent years, although some 80 years ago a half of it was arable land having close by a barn (still standing) belonging to the late Colonel Ouvry, which is said to be Elizabethan, and by some pre-Elizabethan, but which is, however, useless as such in consequence of the salt contained in the bricks. The remainder of the site was in use commercially for rope walks, docks, and warehouses, the remains of Mrs. Butler's Quay, and the mounds around the posts, which upheld the roof of a rope walk, being still to be seen, and the hard roads which existed there can also still be traced. Close by on the other side of the creek is the site of the old oyster beds, for which Lymington was noted. Forming part of the embankment are stones which cannot be other than grave-stones, for they are of the exact size and shape, and the earth mark appears on them. If they really are grave-stones, and there can be but little doubt of it, they may have possibly been the very grave-stones which were taken from Lymington Churchyard to form barricades in Cromwell's time. Another interesting feature is the long embankment right across the centre of the links reputed, though there cannot possibly be evidence of it, to be Roman. On this embankment, or on the site of it, are two mounds, one of which was a battery, erected in the time of the scare of a Napoleonic invasion, having underneath a brick chamber. The other mound is reputed to have been an ammunition chamber. Both these historic mounds are in a line direct north and south, and, curiously enough, the Burrard Memorial can also be seen in a direct line with them. An interesting

natural history feature confirming Darwin's theories of the survival of the fittest, is portrayed in the following facts:— After the decay of commercialism there, the land reverted to its original state of marsh land, and became covered completely with the little red *Marsh Samphire*, presenting a glorious spectacle of colour. On Sunday, 5th November, 1916, there was an extraordinary storm in the Solent and a monster wave, (such as had never, tradition says, been seen for a hundred years or more,) invaded Lymington, sweeping entirely away a great stretch of embankment (a), and flooding houses inland to a depth of three or four feet. One curious result of this storm-wave was that on its retirement it left behind a fertile muddy silt. From this period a fine strong grass began to grow and displaced the Samphire. After that it seems that there were many seeds of a Kentish perennial clover left there, and now this clover is fast conquering the grass. Where the grass has been cut and rolled it has become very close and fine, so that turves have been removed for a bowling green. The whole site (with much other land) was acquired a few years ago by the Keyhaven Syndicate, Limited, the members of which bought up the land in consequence of an idea they had formed that a port for large vessels might be made at Keyhaven, with an accompanying railway. This idea having proved fallacious, most of their land has now been sold, but the Links remain their property, and has been leased to the Lymington Golf Club, so that the top of the old batteries have now become putting greens.

INSTITUTE. In 1846 the building, formerly used as a theatre for the delectation of officers in Napoleonic times, in New Lane, now New Street, was, as previously related, purchased by the Literary Society and converted into a "Literary Institute." The old records of the Institute are not available;

- (a) Mr. E. R. Badcock states that in the ruins of this embankment was found a guinea of the reign of James I. This in itself is a remarkable incident, and probably fixes the approximate date of the building of this particular bank.

but it is known that the building was used for its legitimate purposes for many years after it was acquired. An old programme, dated 1860, gives a synopsis of "Lectures for the Second Half Session, 1860—61." A programme of a Concert held in that year consists of part-songs, madrigals and solos. On 29th January, 1861, there was a lecture on "Free-masonry," (a) a daring venture into forbidden realms which would hardly be possible now-a-days. On February 5th, Captain Parker Snow was announced to lecture on "The Fate of Sir John Franklin." On February 19th, there was a lecture on "Shakespeare and Milton compared and contrasted." On March 12th, there was "An Evening with recent wits and satirists." On March 19th a lecture was given on "The Tudor period of English History." Such were the uses to which our grandparents put their Institute, and such were a portion of their (not unintellectual) pleasures. In 1868, Mr. William Allingham, the poet, was a member of the Committee. There have been many Musical Societies in Lyminster since 1800, and after acquirement of the Institute that was the scene of their efforts.

MUSICAL SOCIETIES. The last Musical Society, in 1902, turned themselves into an Operatic Society, and produced many of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas with success. The names of Lord Arthur Cecil, Miss Weldon, Miss Rose Helsby, and Mr. C. N. Frecknall will always be remembered amongst the active workers of this period.

TOWN BAND. Mr. Frank Haskell (now at Barnet) was the first bandmaster of the Lyminster Town Band, which commenced its existence in 1883, and is still very much alive, having its headquarters at the Institute.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY. In 1919, after the operatic society had perished, the Lyminster Philharmonic Society was established, under the conductorship of Mr. H. Wakeford, F.R.C.O., and continues to give two or three concerts every

(a) This lecture was given soon after the revival of Free Masonry in Lyminster in 1860 (see later on).

year. This Society was never, however, connected with the Institute. It has now, practically, become an Operatic Society.

On the 5th February, 1847, in consequence of the passing of the County Court Act, 1846, it was agreed to allow the Judge to use the Town Hall free of charge. Subsequently the Court was removed to the Institute, where the Petty Sessions of the Lymington Rural District were, until recently held; the Lymington Brotherhood also holds its meetings there. Both Courts, at the time of writing, are being removed to the Parish Hall.

SANITATION. On the 9th November, 1848, a Sanitary Committee was appointed to act conjointly with the Guardians if desired: to survey the parish, and have all nuisances removed by law; and if the Guardians refused their co-operation the Council were to act by themselves. Following this a Notice was issued ordering all inhabitants to remove their refuse before 7 a.m. On the 31st August, 1849, the Surveyors of the Highway (Overseers) were written to requesting them to call a vestry meeting to remedy certain noxious effluvia arising from open drains in Church Lane and from the sewers at the foot of the High Street and Captains' Row. People's olfactory nerves were getting more modern. The vestry meeting was held, and it was resolved that the nuisance should be abated; but a rate was to be made for the purpose. Nothing more appears to have been done until the 4th August, 1857, when Alderman Adams called attention to the insanitary state of the parish, and urged the appointment of an Inspector of Nuisances. A letter from the General Board of Health in November, 1857, asking what had been done under the Nuisances Removal Act 1855, also helped to stir things up. Accordingly the Council set to work and at their next meeting appointed an Inspector (Mr. Sealy) at a salary of £25 (part time), and followed this up by taking proceedings against four persons who had committed nuisances. Thus did

Lymington become a Sanitary authority, and qualify for the more intricate duties that were subsequently to be enforced by the Public Health Acts.

TELEGRAPH. In 1852 the mysteries of telegraphy (old style) were gradually unfolded to the inhabitants of Lymington, and it was with some degree of wonder that the Council heard from several quarters that it was desirable to introduce it into Lymington. Correspondence ensued between Mr. Iselin, General Manager of the Commercial Department of the Southampton Dock Company on a proposition to extend the telegraph from Brockenhurst Station to Lymington. A yearly sum of £100 was to be guaranteed to the Telegraph Company, and the Council were asked to be joint guarantors with the P. & O. Steam Packet Company, the West India Mail Company, the Southampton Dock Company, and the L. & S.W.R. Company for this sum. On the 2nd August, 1852, Mr. Iselin and Mr. Clark, the latter on behalf of the Telegraph Company, were heard as a deputation by the Town Council, when the Council agreed to the terms proposed, and undertook to provide a station or office for which £10 a year was to be paid. The Solent Bath building was fixed upon as the Station. The members of the Corporation at the conclusion of the meeting went with the deputation to the proposed Station, which was approved of, and afterwards went afloat on the "Solent" Steam Packet to Hurst Castle to view a suggested line of further extension of the telegraph to Hurst. To mark their sense of the "obliging attention of the deputation" a "*Dejeuner a la fourchette*" was ordered, and "the Mayor, and other members of the Council present, liberally contributed the whole expense thereof."

Afterwards, some time after the installation, the Town Council were called upon to pay their proportion under the guarantee, the project not having been a financial success, and having no money wherewith to pay, had to borrow money for

this and other deficiencies (£150 altogether) from the Town Clerk (Mr. James Brown). Mr. St. Barbe, the Banker, also lent them money on occasion to meet the difficulties into which they had fallen soon after the abolition of the old Burgess *régime*, and by these means their liabilities were met for a time. It will be remembered that at this time, and long before, the salt-works, shipping trade, and cheese-fair had been declining, and the Corporation were unable to let out the tolls at anything like the old rates, so that they were constantly in financial difficulties.

In August, 1853, the telegraph station was supplied with flags, and a signal post to be used in conjunction with the signaller at the Coast-guard station.

In 1855 the electric telegraph from Brockenhurst Station was extended to the Telegraph office at the Baths.

On the 9th November, 1857, the Telegraph Company gave notice of intention to quit their premises, whereupon the Town Clerk was instructed to enquire upon what terms they would continue their station at Lymington until the Railway Company's works and electric telegraph office were completed. On the 30th November they stated their terms, which were accepted, and a subscription list was opened to meet the expected deficiency of £30 a year. The Company afterwards moved their station to Quay Street, where it remained until the electric telegraph from Brockenhurst Station was extended to the telegraph office at the Baths.

The subsequent story of the electric telegraph at Lymington belongs to the region of general history.

RUSSIAN PEACE FESTIVAL. On the 29th May, 1856, a festival was held to celebrate the peace with Russia. One of the items consisted of an illuminated

gas "star," then a great novelty. Owing to the gas pipe being too small this was, however, not a success. The late Mr. James May, in one of his numerous letters of "recollections" to the Press, said "we were all delighted that peace had come, and hoped it would go on for ever."

RUSSIAN CANNON. On the 25th January, 1858, an application was made to Lord Panmure by the Mayor suggesting that one of the Russian guns captured in the Crimea might be forwarded as a gift to the town. The request was granted, and a subscription made to defray the cost of an iron carriage to mount it on. At the suggestion of the War Office the carriage was made at Woolwich. This is the gun which now stands at the north end of New Street, and gives its name to Cannon Street.

LOCAL BOARD. On the 11th September, 1858, a resolution adopting the Local Government Act, 1858, was passed, and on the 25th September the first members of a "Local Board" were elected. They were Walter Staples, James Furner, George Inman, William Grunsell, Senior, Charles Bran, W. H. Sheriff, H. Stephens, John King, E. Peat, S. Doman, R. King, R. Sharp, G. F. St. Barbe, J. S. Nicholls, F. W. St. Barbe, J. Hayward, S. Perry, and H. T. Bath. Mr. W. H. Baker was appointed the first Clerk to the Board.

TOWN HALL. In 1858 the old Town Hall which stood in the centre of the street opposite Mr. King's (Stationer's) shop was pulled down together with the shambles, etc., and this greatly improved the appearance of the street. (a). The materials were purchased by Mr. George Inman, who re-erected the building (with the exception of the pillars), and

(a) There is a view of the High Street showing this Town Hall in the present Council Chamber.

the shambles, at the Baths, where they still are. The pillars after lying there prostrate for some sixty years, have been re-erected (ten of them) in a pleasing circular design for a kind of Italian garden at "South Hayes." (The site of this dwelling, by the way, is interesting to a geologist as it shows signs of comparatively recent subsidence and upheaval, and the late proprietor has stated as another interesting fact that, wherever the ground has been dug to a depth of five feet or less coins have been found of many kinds). The demolition of this old Town Hall had been considered for a number of years and so long before as the 9th April, 1850, subscription lists had been issued to obtain £400 for the purposes of a new building. Afterwards many people sent in plans for raising money, and one of these was to sell the land at Woodside which had been acquired from Colonel Shedden. This idea was adopted; a memorial was sent in to the Treasury to permit the sale, and permission having been obtained, the land was sold. After all this money from the sale of land and materials and subscriptions had been raised, nothing was done, for the Corporation being heavily indebted to the Town Clerk, Mr. James Brown, in whose control the money was, most of it went to pay off the loan. But there was a certain "hush-hush" about this business which was never satisfactorily cleared up to the public. No account of the amount received from the sale could be found, and the Town Clerk stated that the Corporation owed him that and more. After the building had been destroyed the Corporation, for many years hired the Assembly Rooms at the "Angel" for use as a Town Hall. Eventually, Mrs. Martha Earley, by her Will, left her two houses, Nos. 117 and 118, High Street, to the Corporation for use as municipal offices. These were not, however, suitable for the purpose, and the present Town Hall was erected on the site. as a gift, by her sister Mrs. Ellen Hewitt, who presented it to the town in memory of certain of her near relations whose names appear on a tablet at the entrance to the Town Hall.

The foundation stone was laid by Mrs. Hewitt on the 12th February, 1913.

CATTLE MARKET. On the 10th December, 1860, Lymington held its first Cattle Show. There had been a corn and cattle market in the town for a long period, This was held on Monday (changed on the 5th January, 1867 to Saturday). The lessee of the tolls in 1867 was Mr. Samuel Gardner. Some years afterwards the market ceased owing to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease.

PRINCE OF WALES' MARRIAGE. In 1863 there was a grand festival in honour of the marriage of the Prince of Wales.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN. In 1865 the Council forwarded a resolution of condolence to the U.S. of America on the assassination of President Lincoln, in return for which a grandly bound volume containing expressions of sympathy from all over the world was presented to the Corporation.

THE PARLIAMENTARY BOROUGH. In 1867 the Parliamentary Borough was included in Schedule A of the "Representation of the People Act 1867," and consequently thereafter only returned one member, Lord Gordon Lennox being the first single member to be returned after a combat with Mr. Daniel Pratt. The Parliamentary boundary was not altered by that Act, nor did the Commissioners at the Boundary Commission held in 1868 recommend any extension, although they did recommend an extension of the Municipal boundary so as to include the Urban Sanitary District. This latter extension did not, however, take place until the passing of the Local Government Act 1888, in which year an enquiry was held showing the population of the new area to be 4,366, which was a real decline. After the "Re-distribution of Seats Act, 1885," Lymington ceased to be a Parliamentary

Borough and became merged in the New Forest Division of the County of Hants.

WATER SUPPLY AND DRAINAGE. On the 15th January, 1867, the Local Board was pressed to make certain sanitary improvements. It was quite obvious that the water supply and the drainage of the town demanded attention, and Dr. Airy, the first medical officer appointed, frequently reminded them of this in his annual reports.

With regard to water, the town was supplied by wells, of which there were over 600 in the district, the water in a third of them being contaminated, largely from partial drainage, which had been introduced from time to time by means of unventilated brick sewers, and also by dirty water from laundries. There was a brick sewer in High Street; but none in St. Thomas' Street; there was a sewer (formerly an open one) in Church Lane; and South Street, Gosport Street, and Station Street had also a sewer which emptied itself at the Quay, and created a nuisance there of which the residents near the outfall (Messrs. Weld and Mew) frequently complained. Partial drainage had also been introduced in the Waterford district; but the pipes were small and leaky, and at river outlets the tide choked the outflow and low lying places were often flooded. Many people disbelieved in the new ideas about sewerage and thought that the system of middens and ashpits would be much better. The Town Clerk even wrote a letter to the "Times" quoting medical opinion to this effect. (a). Two-thirds of the people said that if either a water-supply or a sewerage system were laid down they would refuse to be connected. The residents at Highfield were quite satisfied with their fine wells, and there was a great outcry about anticipated heavy expenditure, a Ratepayers' Association being also formed. The following

(a) As the old sewers were unventilated medical opinion was probably right as to them.

extract from the letter of a correspondent in the "Chronicle" on the 17th August, 1883, reflected the feelings of many of the residents. "People who don't like smells must hold their noses If health suffers send for a doctor, and take physic. If all nuisances were abolished there would be no doctors and people would live too long. It is absurd to be too particular in these matters. Local Boards are no good." This letter is, typically enough, signed "An old inhabitant."

WATER SUPPLY. This was the position in which members of the Local Board found themselves, and some years passed in conflicting discussion, with nothing done. On the 16th April, 1880, Mr. G. Manwaring, an engineer, presented his schemes, as instructed, for a water supply, favouring springs at Setley, a well at Southampton Buildings, and the River at Boldre Bridge as alternative sources. With regard to these schemes Mr. Perkins, a member of the Board, pointed out that they were just in the same position as they were five years before, and had not advanced at all. A correspondent in the "Chronicle" said "the question of water supply still drags its slow length along." A new well was sunk near Apsley House, but after great expense had been incurred, it was found that sand constantly found its way into the water, and the scheme was abandoned. A well was sunk in Southampton Buildings at an expenditure of £1,400 or so; but the cylinders collapsed, and when this was remedied, sand flowed into this water also and the well was closed. Other engineers were then consulted, and Messrs. Easton and Anderson were instructed to prospect for water in the neighbourhood. They made numerous borings and finally a site was selected at Ampress and purchased from Pulteney's Trustees.

The death rate at this time was 21.66 per thousand, and there were deaths from typhoid. Finally plans and schemes

were sent in by the engineers for water mains from Ampress, with a Water Tower near the cricket field (site purchased 3rd March, 1883) at a cost of about £8,500. In 1884 the water scheme was completed; but connections were made very gradually, many people preferring their own pumps and wells.

The source of supply was, at first, St. John's Well at Ampress, and afterwards, when this was found to be a trespass on the Railway Company's property, from a trench dug parallel with it. The supply, however, was limited, and the water question, for long afterwards, was a great source of anxiety to the town authorities. After many years (1898) a Mr. Clement Read, an expert, was called in, and prophesied that an unlimited supply of pure water would be found at Ampress at a depth of 350 feet. Years of anxiety, and trouble with Mr. Pember the then proprietor of St. John's Well, then passed, and it was not until 1908 that Messrs. C. Isler and Co. were called in to sink an Artesian well on the advice of the Water Manager, Mr. W. Broomfield. Boring operations began on May 26th, 1908, and lasted till August 27th. On that day members of the Council attended, filled with trepidation, to watch the final result. This was exceedingly satisfactory, the water bursting through to a great height, and an unlimited supply of the best water has from that time been available. A newspaper report of that date states that one member of the attending Council was so delighted at the success of the experiment that he surprised his colleagues by kneeling and offering a prayer of thanksgiving. A second Artesian bore pipe was subsequently sunk, the total sum borrowed for water supply being £14,173 3s. 2d. all of which has now very nearly been paid off. The Council are now about to build a second water tower or reservoir.

SEWERAGE. After the water supply had been established, the Local Board started to deal with the sewerage question,

and Mr. Lemon, of Southampton, sent in a scheme which was accepted. The condition of the streets at this time may be imagined from the facts that grass had to be cleared from the "Camel's Hump" (the centre of the High Street), crossings were laid over the street at intervals to save feet being mudded, and the road material was gravel. Road-making, however, gradually improved as time went on. While the sewerage scheme was in progress the Board was mulcted in £200 damages with £400 costs in an action brought by Mr. E. G. Perkins for not maintaining properly a drain which ran through his property, and in addition the Board was ordered to remedy certain defects within six months. On 3rd July, 1889, the engineer certified that the whole of the high level sewers were completed; and in due course the completion of the whole system followed. From 1884 to 1915 the total cost of the sewerage system was £28,125 9s. 5d. which is now very nearly paid off. In after years there was trouble in consequence of surface water being admitted into the sewers but this has been remedied.

CEMETERY. Other useful work done by the Local Board (the Sanitary pioneers of our time,) during their existence, was the opening of a new cemetery (finally purchased 12th June, 1890) in 1888, and the abating of numerous nuisances. The cemetery was consecrated on the 27th October, 1890, by the Bishop of Guildford.

MAYOR'S CHAIN. In 1877, during the Mayoralty of Mr. Edward Lewis, Colonel Lennard presented the town with a Mayor's chain of office.

COMMISSION OF THE PEACE. In the year 1889 a separate Commission of the Peace was obtained, and thus in some measure, as also in being the centre of a Poor Law Union and Rural District Sanitary Authority and a County Court District, Lyminster recovered a portion of the status lost

through the Re-distribution of Seats Act. Previous to this the only local Magistrates were the Mayor and the ex-Mayor.

BOROUGH ENLARGEMENT—RE-CONSTITUTION OF TOWN COUNCIL. The Local Government Act of 1888, and the Order made thereunder made a sweeping change in the government of Lymington, as it enlarged the limits of the Borough which for 630 years had been restricted to the "hundred acres," so as to make it co-extensive with the parish and Manor. The Local Board, which had done excellent work, was at the same time abolished. It seems to us now quite the natural thing that the government of the town should be vested in one body; but in the days of the Court Leet and the civic jurisdiction of vestries and Churchwardens, and even in the times of the Local Board, people did not seem to think so, and just before the change many persons thought that the Mayor and Corporation would be abolished and an elective "District Council" substituted. Happily it has turned out otherwise. The first Mayor elected under the new system was Mr. Villiers F. Dent (1889—90).

At the election of Municipal Councillors under the Act there were no less than 29 candidates for office the first 16 being Hamilton Earl (375), Silas Dore (359), J. C. N. King (339), J. S. Helsby (328), V. F. Dent (322), F. S. Herries (289), W. R. Hill (288), T. Rashley (261), R. Sharp (258), E. Badcock (256), L. Lewis (243), O. M. Andrews (243), H. Badcock (224), G. Perkins (211), I. B. Purchase (181), and S. Elgar (169). The inclination to rush into print with parodies etc., so prevalent in 1832, was still extant, one of the parodies on this occasion taking the form of "Nursery Rhymes on the baking of the Great Meat Pie 1st November, 1889."

TOWN CLERKS. This is an appropriate place for a short record of Lymington's town clerks. The first town clerk was William Vesey, appointed in 1699. He was a local Attorney

and Scrivener in good practice, and adviser to the reigning Burrard, in whose interest he was doubtless appointed to this, then, almost nominal post. He has already been noticed in a prior chapter. In 1744, Odber Knapton, a connection of the Burrards, was appointed. Sometimes he was Mayor, and sometimes town clerk, and was no doubt (as a connection of the family) on the Burrard "privy Council" when it had to be decided who should stand as members for the Borough. In 1747 John How, Junior, held the post and was succeeded in 1774 by William Trattle. They were both Burgesses and friends of the Burrards. In 1826 and 1835 came James Brown and his son of the same name. Of the former we have already mentioned something, and the latter (the "brown rat") (a) was the person who lent the Corporation money as previously related. They were both cordially detested. Later on came Edward Horatio Moore, Edwin Jackman, and John Davis Rawlins, all solicitors and members of the same firm, in that order of succession. Of these, Mr. Herbert Tizard, their former clerk, who succeeded Mr. Rawlins in 1916, said, on a certain festive occasion, "the firm seemed to be in a sort of apostolic succession, for as soon as one dropped out another dropped in." He continued to say "We do not know much about Lymington's town clerks; perhaps it is just as well that we do not." Probably he was thinking of himself, for within a month after making this remark viz; on the 4th December, 1928, he mysteriously disappeared, and neither broadcasting nor the police have been able to trace his whereabouts. The present Town Clerk is Mr. Pulsford Lang who took up his duties as from 31st March, 1929.

FAIRS. It has been related (b) that two fairs were granted to Lymington, the chief one in 1257, the recipients of the Charter, through Isabel of the Isle, granting the tolls and

(a) The word "rat" at this time and for two centuries before had a definite meaning, representing one who was influenced by monetary considerations. (See "Campbell's Lives" under "Clarendon.")

(b) See Chapter 3.

stallages to the Burgesses shortly afterwards, and that these fairs were regularly held in May and October. Until the introduction of the railways, these fairs were of immense importance not only to the inhabitants of Lymington, but to all living within a circle of many miles around, and even in other counties. They were the chief means by which the people could lay up a stock of goods for the year's consumption, and the chief means of wholesale trading. There is no record which would present a living picture of these fairs as they existed in ancient times; but the following account of them as they were in the early nineteenth century has been preserved. "Large quantities of cheese, from 500 to 600 tons, were brought, chiefly from Somerset and Dorset, and pitched in the High Street on the top of the hill, extending a considerable distance towards New Lane; the large tilted waggons drawn by splendid teams of horses with bells fitted to their harness, produced a very lively effect. This was going on, night and day, for some time before the fair, and beyond the cheese in the street, very large quantities of china, glass, crockery and earthenware were pitched. Buyers of cheese came from the Isle of Wight and towns on the coast, and a large fleet of hoys (a) and other vessels arrived, and laid off the quay awaiting freightage. On the quay immense stacks of besoms, brooms made in the Forest, were placed for sale. The cheese was wheeled in barrows down the hill to the Quay for shipment by men who begged or borrowed a barrow, and so made a good day's wage. In addition to the usual shows and toy and gingerbread stalls, a large trade was done in New Lane (b) with cattle, horses, and Forest ponies. Amongst the miscellaneous goods sold was cloth." In 1848, when the fair had dwindled, the cheese-market ceased.

A further impressional account of the fair as it existed in 1863 is given by William Allingham, the poet,

(a) It was from this circumstance that the Inn in Gosport Street (now No. 7) derived its name of "The Isle of Wight Hoy."

(b) And Hatchett's field adjoining.

who came to reside in Lymington in that year as custom-house officer (when the custom-house stood opposite the Quay) and is taken from his diary (a).

"Booths in the street, with toys and sweets, noise and clatter, shows, some monkeys, and a wild boar; a Zulu Kaffir; Catwoman (leaving her baby behind the scenes) does conjuring tricks; dancing booth, shooting galleries, gypsies, black-eyed girls in tawdry bright attire, brown old witches, gypsy young men, lithe and tall, how Oriental these people keep." From all of which it appears that the big commercial market of former years had then degenerated into a mere pleasure fair. Even this declined, and the fair became a nuisance, and cause of rowdyism; so that in 1890 the Corporation, taking advantage of the Fairs Act 1871, got it abolished. Thus disappeared an historical institution, after an unbroken existence of 633 years.

STREET MARKET. It has been recorded in the 3rd Chapter that a Street Market was instituted for the convenience of the inhabitants, and for the profit of the Lord of the Manor, at a very early period, and that in 1405 Edward Courtenay transferred his rights to the Burgesses for a small quit rent, so that this Street Market must be one of the most ancient in England, having clearly existed long before the date of the transfer. It was then, as now, held in the High Street, and formerly overflowed into New Lane and the adjacent fields.

Our ancestors were very averse to keeping records, and though an accurate account of what the tolls were could be given, they left nothing which would enable one to portray the scene of the market as it was in the olden days. The following, however, is a lively account of the market as it was in 1840 or thereabouts, given years ago by an old resident :—

(a) In the possession of Mr. E. Hapgood.

"Saturday was the day, and a busy day it was. The underpart or ground floor of the Town Hall was well supplied with fish, vegetables, and dairy produce, and farmers' daughters did not think it beneath them to attend and sell their poultry, butter, eggs, etc. Outside the Market House was a row of butcher's shambles supplied with excellent meat by butchers from Milford, Brockenhurst, and Lymington, and housekeepers made it a rule to go to market and buy what they wanted."

We are inclined to think that the market, as above depicted, was not widely different to what it was 500 years before. The coming of the railways and other modern facilities, however, killed this market almost absolutely, and all that remains of it are a few stalls set out by hawkers on Saturday afternoons and evenings. The old customs, such as the rule that no stall should be set out before noon, appear now to be mostly disregarded; but the tolls (now slightly increased) are collected by the Corporation, even from itinerant hawkers, as in olden days. For many years the tolls were let out and always formed one of the sources of income to the Corporation. Latterly the town marshal has collected them for the Corporation direct, and this has turned out to be a much more remunerative plan. Opinion is divided as to whether or not it would be a good thing for Lymington if this market could be revived to something like its former importance, and removed from the street.

FORESTERS. There have been in the past, and there are now, various societies and clubs fulfilling, no doubt, a useful purpose; but, so far as the writer can gather, the only institutions not previously mentioned which possess anything like an historical interest are those set out below.

"The Order of Foresters," wrote Mr. A. J. Dyer, D.Sc., Southampton "can be traced from almost time immemorial

within Hampshire precincts, and especially in and around the New Forest, and branches of Foresters were named after Sir Walter Tyrrel, King Rufus, Bill Purkis, and other celebrities." Lymington has the honour of being the birth-place of the first known female branch, founded in 1790, and another female branch in Brockenhurst can be traced back to 1810." (a).

The existing Lymington branch of the A.O.F. is "Court Yelverton," No. 2437, founded in 1851, and is the lineal successor of all former local branches.

FREEMASONS. (b). The earliest record of a body of Freemasons at Lymington refers to a Lodge constituted 16th August, 1764, to meet at the "Crown" Buckland, which later on in the same year had moved to the "Nag's Head" in High Street (now "The Londesborough Hotel.") In 1777 this Lodge migrated to Ringwood, where at the present day it continues to exist as the "Lodge of Unity" No. 132, the name having been taken in 1782.

Later on a number of the Masons residing at Lymington, wishing to establish a new Lodge in the Town, applied to the authorities, and, on 23rd August, 1814, Colonel Sherborne Stewart, Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire, transferred the warrant of the Lodge of Fellowship No. 584, founded at Winchester the 12th November, 1799, to the new body at Lymington then named "The New Forest Lodge." Mr. William Hebbard, of Lymington, appears as taking a leading part as a founder, and Mr. Edward May was Master *pro tem.* at the first meeting held on 26th August. The first Secretary was Thomas Gatrell, and we recognise another old Lymington name in that of G. Klitz holding office in the Lodge.

(a) Foresters' Directory.

- (b) Written up from the Minutes and from information furnished to the writer by the Librarian of Grand Lodge. The account is much curtailed by request.

The brethren met at the Masonic Hall in Quay Street. This building is interesting, as the Masons used it for half a century or more (though meeting at the "Nag's Head" for a time in 1823). It was also hired by the Reverend Canon Maturin in 1852 when the Lodge was dormant, as a Mission Hall, and thenceforward was known, alternatively, as "The Old Bethel" and "The Masonic Hall." It was subsequently used for both purposes, the Mission services being conducted on the ground floor, and the Masons' meeting in the room above. It is still existing; but is now privately occupied.

As an interesting piece of social history it may be mentioned that in 1824 supper cost the brethren 1/- per head; postage on a letter from London was 9d.; on a larger letter 1/6; on a letter to Exbury in the same County 6d. Postages and candles were both expensive items. Mr. Galpin was the town printer. The liquid refreshments were brandy and rum. This may perhaps be accounted for by the fact that most of the members were Captains of coasting vessels and yachts. In those days, which were the days of Lymington's prosperity as a port, every house in South Street was at one time occupied by a sea captain, from which fact the street derived its name (recognised municipally and in legal documents) of "Captain's Row."

In 1838, the Lodge, after experiencing very fluctuating fortune, "dwindled to nothing" and finally was extinguished in that year, Masonry remaining in abeyance in the town for 22 years.

In 1852, Mr. John Hayward, an old P.M. made a great effort to revive it, and called the old members together with that object. A communication to an officer of Grand Lodge from the Reverend Canon Maturin, in that year, mentions that he attended this meeting "at the Masonic Hall on or near the

Quay, which still goes by that name, and which I now rent as a place of worship." (a).

This effort, and also subsequent attempts, failed, however, and it was not until 1860 that the Lodge was again re-opened through the energy of Mr. George William Clarke, P.G., Secretary for Hampshire, who had come to reside in Lymington, and the first meeting of the resuscitated Lodge was held, according to the Minutes, in the Town Hall (b) on the 27th June, 1860, with Brother Hayward and 19 brethren; 13 candidates being also elected. The Lodge then went back to the upper room at the Masonic Hall for its Meetings, and thenceforward met there fairly regularly, being re-numbered 401, and again, on the 6th July 1863, re-numbered 319.

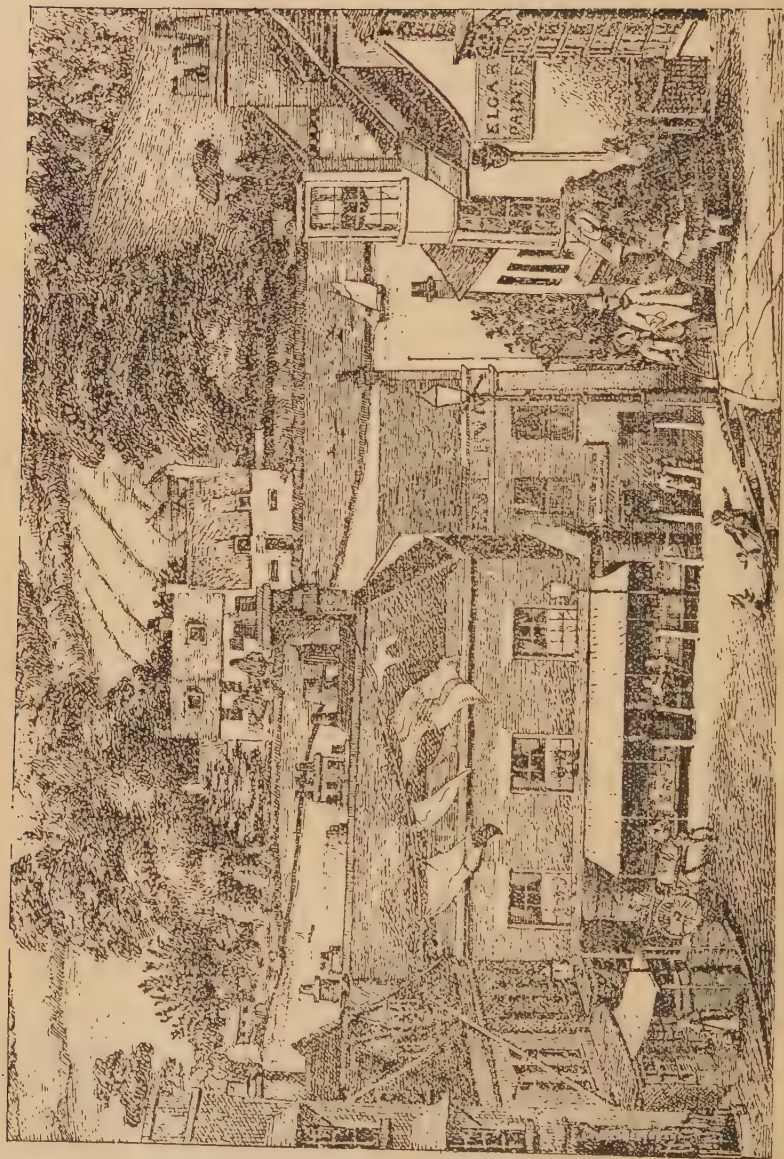
In 1872 the Lodge was closed for some time; but again re-opened on the 11th June in that year, the members meeting at the Masonic Hall until the 9th September, 1874, when the Lodge was held at the "Bugle" Inn. (c).

In March, 1898, the premises in Ashley Lane were acquired and converted into a Masonic Hall.

"The New Forest Chapter," No. 319, was consecrated 29th February, 1904; the "Powney Lodge," No. 3099, on the 11th May, 1905; and the "New Forest Mark Lodge," No. 611, in 1910.

On 3rd September, 1926, the foundation stone was laid of the splendid new Masonic Hall in the High Street, and all the local Masonic bodies removed to these premises in May, 1927.

- (a) Mr. E. Hapgood remembers attending service here many years later.
- (b) As the old Town Hall had been pulled down in 1858 this must have been the Assembly Room at the "Angel" where the Town Council used to meet until they acquired their new Town Hall.
- (c) Lane's Records say 1879 but this must be an error. Perhaps this was the date when an official intimation of the change was given.



LYMINGTON, 1857.

ODDFELLOWS. The "Bud of Hope" Lodge of the Manchester Union of Oddfellows was founded in Lymington in the year 1845 with headquarters at the "Anchor and Hope" Hotel where the monthly meetings are still held. A fire which destroyed the Hotel in 1905 also destroyed the early Lodge records so that details of its foundation are not available. This fire, it may be mentioned, is the worst Lymington has experienced in modern times. The Lodge is now very strong in membership, and like the "Foresters" has benefited by taking National Health Insurance members.

RECHABITES. "The Hope of Lymington" Tent or branch of the Independent Order of Rechabites (an Order formed at Salford in 1835 for propagating ideas of thrift, temperance etc.) was started in 1891, its first meeting place having been the Anglesea Temperance Hotel. Like the Foresters and Oddfellows it received a great stimulus by the addition of Health Insurance members.

GENERAL REVIEW. Municipal duties have since 1888 been so regularly and methodically carried out, and are now of so general a character, that little more remains to be said of Lymington than could be said of many another little town; so that a few notes of what has occurred in recent years may perhaps suffice to complete this history. There is no disguising the fact that since the decline and fall of its former industries, Lymington has been regarded as being somewhat behind the times. The introduction of many motor garages, the "Wellworthy" piston ring factory, the revival of yachting, and the fact of its being an administrative centre have, however, to some extent counteracted this, and the Council are fully alive to the necessity of seizing any opportunity for making progress. With Southampton and Bournemouth on either side, and the main line of railway some four miles off, Lymington may be regarded now as

comparatively isolated and progress difficult, though as a quiet residential town it has many merits. During the War Lymington was singularly immune from air attacks, owing doubtless to its being so well protected by forts. A handsome War Memorial has been placed opposite the Church. Under the Government building schemes many Council houses have been erected, and a convenient new road (Katherine's Road) (a) made. A new Masonic Hall of imposing character has been erected by the two local Lodges. The large new Parish Hall, the formation of the Electric Light Company (1900) the lighting of the streets with electricity, the building and enlargement of its Cottage Hospital, the new Infirmary at the workhouse, the "Lyric" Cinema, a Philharmonic Society, the building of various Club houses for women, Girl Guides and Scouts, the gift and laying out of a children's play-ground, the erection of public lavatories, the new Yacht Club with its Club building, the starting of a Golf Club, the purchase of a new modern fire-engine, the opening of the Courtenay Chapel, the building of many new villas, and lastly the gift by the late Colonel Rooke of some seven acres of gardens, and the acquisition of Municipal Sea Baths show that Lymington, while proud of its past, is not neglectful or oblivious of present well-being.

Under the Local Government Act of 1929 a scheme is under consideration for the enlargement of the Borough area by the addition of two, if not three, of the adjoining parishes. If this scheme comes into being the original 105 acres will be enlarged into an area containing many square miles. However much the original town may be obscured by future building and other operations, its unique history (necessarily incompletely given here) will always make the town interesting and attractive.

(a) So named after Katherine Parr part of whose dowry was "the Flushards."

AFTERWORD.

We have seen in the pages of this history how the old British town of Lymington arose through the obscurity of an unknown and indefinite past to be an important trading port; how it was again lost to sight for many centuries, though undoubtedly still subsisting, until it re-appeared through the pages of Domesday as a Saxon village; how, through the policy of its Norman lords, it became incorporated as a Borough; how, from a very early period in Norman history, it again became a prosperous port, and a busy commercial and manufacturing centre, with important fairs and markets; how, later, through a political chance, it became a Parliamentary Borough returning two members to Parliament, and how later still, while retaining its commercial and political prestige, it became a fashionable resort for the greatest in the land.

A unique feature in its history is the fact that its rulers for 500 years were the members of one family, and for a further 300 years the members of another family. No one can think of Lymington without visualising its connection with the de Redvers, the Courtenays and the Burrards, and its administration by self interested Burgesses and the Court Leet. In such features as these no other town has a history quite like that of Lymington.

In other ways it reflects, in miniature, the history and the state of England. Viewed in this aspect it shows in lurid light the fact, which must ever remain an astonishing one, that until a century ago real civilization had made scarcely any progress. The people in Elizabeth's time were as intelligent and as civilised as in the reign of George III., and in most social and political

affairs those who lived in the time of Edward I. were not much behind the subjects of Elizabeth.

A hundred years ago a Burrard would still have found it most convenient to travel to town on horseback ; to make his friends' houses his hostelries ; his pistols his best protection from highwaymen ; and to seek his best guarantee for the state of the roads in dry weather. His advancement would be best served by keeping a pocket Borough, and letting education depend upon the charity of a Fulford. Although they spelt the "decline and fall" of Lymington, there is no doubt that "Reform" and the railways were the forerunners of progress, and, until we had them, civilisation, as we know it, had scarcely commenced. Right up to that period smugglers, poachers, and rioters were common to Lymington and there were even press-gangs. There was no sewerage, pure water supply, sanitation, or personal cleanliness, and even the High Street of the town was in rainy weather a mass of mud and filth. All this and the general ignorance was not of course confined to Lymington, which therefore reflects a general picture of the country at large, and, for that reason, the writer hopes that this little work may have more than a purely local interest.

APPENDIX.

AMPRESS HOLE.

This Camp occupies a piece of ground which fills the angle between the Lymington River on the East and a small stream running in at right angles on the North. Both streams run through mud flats about 200 yards and 50 yards broad, respectively, and the tide reaches to just above their junction. The mud flats have steep banks about 10 feet high. Whether that of the small stream has been artificially cut back to form a dock is doubtful. It used to be called Ampress Hole in the 18th century.

The shape of the camp is oblong, with the S.W. corner round, and the area about 6 acres.

The rampart is a broad, rounded, gravel bank, much spread, rising very gradually to 4 feet above the area, and with a steep scarp of 7 feet to a ditch 18 feet wide. There is a bank 2 feet high on the counterscarp, also much spread; an oak about 200 years old shows that this bank was a foot higher when it was planted. The bottom of the ditch is now about 4 to 5 feet above the level of Ampress Hole, but was probably originally, wet; on the South side its place is taken by a lane. The present gate, in the centre of the West side, though in the natural position for the original entrance, looks obviously modern. Soil gravel, Area—now grass. Water supply from the stream.

The camp occupies the extremity of the tongue on which Buckland Rings is constructed 500 yards away.

(From Dr. William Freeman's "Field Archæology.")

ORIGIN OF THE COURTENAYS.

In the History of France by Bonnechose it is related that Charlemayne gave Aquitaine to his son Lewis, under the tutelage of William *au Court Nez* (with the short nose) Duke of Toulouse and that this was the origin of the surname of the Courtenays, Emperors of the East, Earls of Devonshire &c. Instead therefore of discerning "with the first rays of light," as Gibbon says, the noble Atho or Athon as their primogenitor, and instead of the name having been derived from the town of Courtenay, as related in the text, the family may be traced back to the eighth century, and the town of Courtenay took its name from the family name. It would be interesting to learn if there is a more ancient family which was enobled at so early a period in existence.

THE WELD FAMILY.

This family is of Saxon origin, being descended from Edric Sylvaticus, who was called "Wild" and was the son of Alfric, brother to the Duke of Mercia. In order to trace more readily those of the family whose names occur in this history it may be mentioned that Thomas Weld, of Lulworth Castle, was the father of Thomas Cardinal Weld (his heir) and of Joseph Weld the owner of "The Alarm" yacht, who succeeded on the death of Thomas and for many years lived at "Pylewell." Joseph left three sons, viz: Edward, Thomas, and Joseph—Edward lived at Lulworth Castle till he died, and was succeeded successively by his sons Sherborne and Humphrey, and on the death of Humphrey by Herbert (son of Thomas) who is the present proprietor.

The third son Joseph lived at the Lodge (Blake's) and had four sons, one of whom (Mr. Henry J. Weld) still resides at Lymington. Lulworth Castle was burnt down on the 29th August, 1929, but fortunately its greatest treasure, the "Luttrell Psalter" had a few weeks before been disposed of to the

British Museum for £31,000, and most of the other treasures were saved. Cardinal Weld was the first English Cardinal since the seventeenth century, and won leave from George III. to build the first new Roman Catholic Church since the Reformation. "The Castle enjoyed the further glamour of having been visited by several English Sovereigns and of having sheltered a deposed King of France."

WOODSIDE AND THE ROOKE FAMILY.

The earliest known progenitor of the Rooke family was Giles Rooke, of Romsey and Houghton, Co. Hants, and who was born about 1670. His grand-daughter Mary Pearce married, as his second wife, Colonel William Burrard, father of Sir Harry Burrard Neale. His son, Giles (born 1701), was a Director of the East India Company. One of the sons of this Giles was Sir Giles Rooke, Kt., Judge of the Common Pleas (born 1743). He settled in Lymington, bought real estate there, married Harriet, sister of Sir Harry Burrard Neale ("the fair Burrard") died at Lymington (1808) and was buried there. His wife survived him, and died at her residence, "Formosa," Lymington, 5th May, 1839. The Woodside property was bought in 1830. Sir Giles left five sons, Giles, William, Harry, George and Leonard Charles, all born at Lymington. Captain Leonard Charles Rooke was born in 1797, and died in 1852 at Formosa. Another son of Giles Rooke was William Rooke (born 1747). He married Marianne, sister of Sir Harry Burrard Neale, and died at "Woodside," 6th August, 1831, soon after he had bought the property. He was the first of the "Woodside" Rookes. His son, William Woven Rooke (born 27th April, 1804), was an Officer in the 2nd Life Guards, and died at Woodside, 8th April, 1883. The marble drinking fountain in St. Thomas' Street was erected in his memory in March, 1885. He left two sons, Colonel Henry Douglas Rooke, born at Woodside, 2nd May, 1842, and Algernon Woven Rooke, Captain 84th

Regiment, born 27th August, 1845. Colonel Rooke left his house and garden at Woodside to the Lymington Corporation. Both he and his brother were unmarried. Descendants of Sir Giles Rooke are still living, but the Woodside branch is extinct.

It will be seen that the Burrards and Rookes were intimately connected, and both families were devoted to Lymington.

1814—WAR WITH FRANCE.

From a bundle of old documents we learn that in this year the town was full of barracks, guard-houses, hospitals, munition stores etc. the old Tithe Barn being, for instance, let at £60 a year for a military hospital. Merchant seamen from Lymington were imprisoned at Arras, half-starved and almost naked, their ration per man being 2ozs. of meat and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of bread per diem. A subscription was made for them in Lymington in response to a printed appeal. A "Thanksgiving Day" for the conclusion of the War was held at Lymington on the 7th July, 1814, when 1705 pints of ale and 290 gallons of bread were distributed amongst 1180 poor persons. The public houses supplying the ale were the "Blacksmith's Arms," 'Six Bells,' "King's Arms," 'Bricklayer's Arms,' "Sloop," "True Blue," "New Inn," Greyhound," "Dolphin," and "The Bugle." Soldiers were conveyed from Lymington to Southampton by four-horsed waggons impressed for the purpose by warrant addressed to the constable of the Borough, the rate (fixed at Quarter Sessions) being $\frac{1}{3}$ per mile.

CHARLES I. AND THE "KING'S ARMS."

A friendly critic has insisted that King Charles really did sleep at the "King's Arms" on his way from Hurst Castle to Winchester, and produced in confirmation a cutting from a Hampshire newspaper of 1910. This cutting, however, merely

shows that a stranger, who had heard of the tradition, called at the "King's Arms" and asked to be shown the bedroom (over the archway) where the King slept. The landlord showed it to him (of course he would). Guizot's "History of the Revolution," however, acknowledged by the author of Green's "History of the English People" and others, to be the most reliable history of Charles I., states positively that he was taken straight from Hurst Castle to Winchester. It is also incredible to think that the King on starting on his journey should stop to sleep at a place three miles away. Why should he? He might as well have stopped at Hurst Castle another night. There is generally something in tradition, but in this case the only imaginable something seems to be that the King's two attendants, who were detained at Lymington on their way to the Isle of Wight to sound the Governor on his views, might have slept at the Inn. It may be added that the King had embarked for the Isle of Wight *via* Titchfield and Southampton.

ALICE LISLE AND PENNINGTON, AND THOMAS DORE.

The following is the gist of two articles published in the Milford Record Society's "Occasional Magazine" for May, 1914 by A. B. Woodd, Esq., M.A. and C. Rivett-Carnac, Esq. respectively :

ALICE LISLE, daughter of Sir White Beconsaw or Baconsaw, and wife of John Lisle, the regicide, created Viscount Lisle by Cromwell, attainted at the Restoration, and assassinated on the continent in 1664, was possessed in that year, by virtue of family settlements, of Pennington Manor (see p. 58). This is the lady who was executed at Winchester in 1685 after a so-called trial by Judge Jeffreys for harbouring two of Monmouth's adherents. It would seem from these articles that Pennington Manor, at and before this time, had been the subject of many marriage settlements. The connection of

this historical personage with Pennington is, however, quite noteworthy. The treatment of Alice Lisle is contrasted with that of Colonel Thomas Dore, Mayor of Lymington, who raised a troop for Monmouth, fought for him, and, according to the writer, proclaimed Monmouth King at Lymington, where he (Dore) was one of the chief conspirators. (See p. 118). The writer, in contrasting the fate of Alice Lisle and Dore, says the latter was allowed to return to Lymington. It may be doubted however whether this was with the knowledge and consent of King James' Government.

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ERRATA.

P. 53, last line but one "cival" should be "civil."

P. 57, "Preistlands" should be "Priestlands."

P. 80, "itself" 3rd line from top should be deleted.

P. 136, "aboriginal" should be "working."

